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POST
WORLD OF
SPORT
On the pitch or
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TODAY

Court allows surrogate motherhood

News agencies

SURROGATE motherhood moved closer to legalization here yesterday when the High Court of Justice, acting at the request of the State Attorney's Office, canceled regulations banning it.

The decision takes effect January 1, to give the Health Ministry time to finalize preparation of a law setting guidelines for surrogate motherhood.

At a High Court hearing two weeks ago, lawyer Osnat Mandel of the State Attorney's Office said the office believed regulations banning surrogacy had been adopted without proper authority, and should be canceled. She also asked for six months to prepare surrogate guidelines.

Lawyer Amnon Ben-Dror, representing 25 childless couples whose only hope for having children is via surrogate motherhood, had asked the High Court to cancel the regulations forthwith. He claimed that Health Minister Ephraim Sneh cannot guarantee his ministry's bill will be passed within six months.

In 1987, former health minister Shoshana Arbeli Almozino amended articles 11 and 13 of the Public Health Ordinance, thus forbidding surrogate motherhood here, based on Paragraph 33 of the ordinance, which sets guidelines for authorizing clinical and hospital operations.

The decision followed the American "Baby M" case, in which a surrogate mother tried unsuccessfully to win custody of the child she bore for a New Jersey couple. But in the past year the government has dropped its opposition to surrogate motherhood, arguing only that it needed time to draft regulations for the process.

Justices Dov Levin, Eliahu Mazza, and Zvi Tal decided on the January 1 date to allow for finalization of legislation, concluding it is important to prevent the creation of a vacuum in which there are no guidelines.

The petitioners still disagree with the Health Ministry regarding the wording of the proposed law, with the ministry planning on banning surrogate motherhood by married women, relatives of the biological mother, women who are not Israeli citizens, and surrogate motherhood for pay. The petitioners claim these limitations will totally prevent surrogate motherhood here, because the chances of finding a woman ready to serve as a surrogate mother who meets these criteria are practically nil.

Childless couples were ecstatic at the ruling. "I am walking around like in a daze," said Tamar Martin, 38, who was born without a uterus and lacks the money to go abroad for a surrogate birth. "I just want to shout from happiness and don't know where to begin."

Related stories, Page 3



IDF soldiers keep guard at Rachel's Tomb near Bethlehem. The tomb is now the focus of a controversy over whether Israelis or Palestinians will guard it after the IDF redeployment. (Reuters)

US, Israel apparently at odds over Syrian talks

DAVID MAKOVSKY

THE US and Israel do not, at least publicly, seem to be on the same wavelength regarding how to proceed in peace talks with Syria.

Challenging public comments made by Secretary of State Warren Christopher over the weekend that Syria's refusal to renew military talks with Israel on security arrangements was a "technical" matter, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told reporters yesterday, "I view it not as a technical matter, but [as] a violation of an agreement." He charged that Syria's unwillingness to hold military talks hurts its credibility.

Moreover, Rabin refused to say whether Israel would participate in the type of talks - meetings between diplomats - that Syria wants. Appearing before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Rabin was quoted as saying: "Today there is

a lack of clarity about the continuity of the talks."

In contrast, Christopher told NBC's *Meet the Press* TV program Sunday that both sides would have diplomats in Washington hold further discussions within the next two weeks.

US special Middle East peace coordinator Dennis Ross relayed a message from Damascus to Rabin last week saying that it preferred that the talks continue on the level of diplomats, with each side having the option of sending a military adviser to the session, Rabin told reporters.

Syria has linked the resumption of those talks with Israel's dropping its insistence that it retain an early warning ground capability on the Golan Heights.

In an apparent rhetorical escalation yesterday, state-run Damascus Radio termed Israel's

early warning stations on the Golan "spy stations on its [Syria's] territory."

However, Rabin does not believe diplomats can substitute for military officers in negotiating the all important issue of security arrangements. Furthermore, Rabin believes a principle is at stake: Damascus adhering to a commitment publicly announced by Christopher on May 24 that military officers follow up a meeting by the chiefs of staff of both countries.

There are suggestions that Rabin is upset with the US for not publicly condemning the Syrians for breaking an agreement to hold the military talks. Rabin said he has heard from the US media that Christopher may come to the region, but has received no official word to this effect.

"We did expect that the US would take a firmer public stand," said an Israeli political source in Jerusalem.

However, a senior American diplomatic source insisted that not going public in justifying Israel's position was purely a US tactical consideration. "We are not whitewashing. But in order to preserve our role, we prefer to tell the Syrians quietly: 'The ball' (Continued on Page 2)

Accord near on Jerusalem Arabs' vote for PA

DAVID MAKOVSKY and BILL HUTMAN

ISRAEL and the Palestinians are heading towards a compromise that would enable certain eastern Jerusalemites to run for the Palestinian self-rule council, senior Israeli and Palestinian officials indicated yesterday.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat are to be hosted by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Alexandria tomorrow, in a bid to reach an agreement by the July 25th target date. Israeli and Palestinian negotiators continued their negotiations in Zichron Ya'acov yesterday.

Senior officials in Jerusalem said last night that Israel is willing to compromise on religious and archeological sites in the territories.

Under the proposal being considered, Israeli guards would remain inside Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem, while Palestinian guards stand outside. It is not clear how soon this arrangement would be implemented once an agreement is signed.

It should be stressed that until the Bethlehem bypass road is completed, the IDF will remain on the main road passing through

Bethlehem. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday that once the bypass road is completed, he hopes a joint "partnership" of Israel and the Palestinians would guarantee free access along the 460 meters from the Jerusalem municipal boundary to the tomb.

Joseph's Tomb in Nablus would be under Palestinian control, with access granted to Jews as at the Shalom Al Yisrael Synagogue in Jericho.

The prime minister told the Knesset panel that he sees no reason to change the rules governing Israel's control of Hebron's Machpela Cave.

Israel is to retain overriding security responsibility throughout the territories during at least the first two years of the interim period, which in theory gives it ultimate control over the archeological sites outside urban areas.

Palestinians, however, are to have administrative control over these areas. As a compromise, control is likely to be divided among the various sites. One Israeli source described a plan under which Israel would post guards at Herodian, the Qumran Caves, Nebi Samwil, and on Mt. Eival, while Sebastia, Marsaba, (Continued on Page 2)

Labor okays Barak, Beilin as ministers

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

LABOR's central committee yesterday unanimously approved the appointments of former chief of general staff Ehud Barak as Interior Minister and Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin as Economics and Planning Minister.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will today submit the appointments to the cabinet's and Knesset's approval.

Committee members, who convened in Beit Berl, embraced Barak and Beilin, expressing complete confidence in Barak despite the doubts raised over his conduct in the Tze'elim-2 accident. The atmosphere at the gathering, although low-key due to the death of Mordechai Gur, was warm, and marked with a unity rare in Labor ranks.

"The party today welcomed to its ranks not two novices, but two leaders," one committee member said. "There was a feeling that with these two, and this spirit of unity behind the leadership, we can win the elections again in 1996."

In a speech that inspired the committee and was described as "a brilliant show," Barak said he plans to take an active part in the next election campaign.

He said that he decided to enter political life for three reasons. "First, politics is the arena in which the fate of Israel will be determined. Second, we are facing perhaps the most crucial decisions since the establishment of the state. The direction in which

Israel has been going in under the leadership of Rabin and Peres is the most important, courageous, responsible and far-visioned chapter we have ever gone through since the establishment of the state.

"Thirdly, the people sitting around the cabinet table, their judgment, experience and responsibility, will determine the outcome of the political effort, our security and all facets of life, social and economic."

Beilin, in his address, said that in the next 15 months it is necessary to find out whether "Syria is

really heading for peace, or merely pulling the wool over the Americans' eyes."

If the first is true, he said, then the peace process must be speeded up. If not, the Syrians' intentions must be exposed to the world.

Beilin added that "We must already start thinking about the morning after the peace - the character of the Jewish people, the relations of Israel with world Jewry, the bridging of social gaps, and especially, the vocation of an Israeli society in which existence is no longer the main issue."

Talk had Barak taking Gur's post

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

LABOR's leadership held intensive consultations yesterday and Sunday about possibly appointing former chief of general staff Ehud Barak minister-without-portfolio for defense affairs.

This emerged following the death of Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur, who held a similar post. Senior Labor figures reportedly urged Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to give Barak that job to keep the interior portfolio for Shas, before hearing of Shas's decision to remain in the opposition.

Rabin yesterday met with Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet and told him he was taking the Economic Planning portfolio from him, then informed Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin he would get that post. MK Eli Dayan will replace Beilin.

Beit Daniel WOMEN IN THE ISRAELI RELIGIOUS SCENE

Panel Discussion in English
Tuesday, July 18, 1995, 62 B'nai Dan St., Tel-Aviv at 8:00pm

Panel of Speakers:

Dr. Jan Sokolovsk, Attorney and Rabbinical-Courts Pleader
Rabbi Maya Leibovitz, The Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism
Mrs. Bruria Barish, Newly elected member of the Tel-Aviv Religious Council
Moderator: Greet Fay Chahman, The Jerusalem POST
THE PUBLIC IS INVITED

Beit Daniel, The Center for Progressive Judaism in Tel-Aviv Tel: (03)544-2740, Fax: (03)544-4030

All agree that First International Bank leads

Recent reports penned on the financial prowess of the First International Bank

First International Bank provident and mutual funds top Globes 1994 rating. "Ahead of all other banks, in periods of boom and bust, at both high and low risk" "Globes", January 1995

"Ha'aretz" mutual fund survey: "Only one bank managed to outshine the other banks - the First International Bank. A review of the equity-oriented funds shows that their yield was far higher than those of other banks. Indeed, over the past five years, the First International Bank's largest share-oriented mutual fund Mor has provided the highest yield within the mutual fund sector - 217.1% or 29% in annual real terms." "Ha'aretz", 2.7.95

"Risk Versus Yield - The First International Bank Leads" "Bank of Israel staff measured each bank's entire range of risks according to the standard deviation of its profitability, over a relatively long period of nine years between 1986 and 1994." "The First International Bank achieved an average profitability of nearly 10% over the past nine years, when it proved the safest investment in the banking system, with a standard deviation of almost zero." "Ha'aretz", 10.9.95

A report by Baring Securities of London on the Israeli capital market states: "The First International Bank is innovative and aggressive, strong loan and deposit growth should continue...one of the most profitable banks...with a balanced credit portfolio...FIBI is in the best position to weather the forthcoming structural changes in the banking sector." May 1995

Teachers choose First International Bank The advanced study fund managements of the Israel Teachers Federation and the Post-Elementary School Teachers Association have transferred the management of their funds to the First International Bank Group. The transfer involves a total of NIS 2.1 billion from 110,000 members accounts. July 95

A report on the Israeli banking system by Farman and Selz of New York states: "First International Bank is a stand-out versus other international banking comparisons, with operating margins of 38%, net margins of 17-18%, a dividend yield of 4.5%, plus excellent management and a conservative balance sheet and lending policy." January 1995.

Bank of Israel staff choose the First International Bank Bank of Israel employees have chosen the First International Bank Group to manage their Menfa provident fund deposits. April 1995

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9 soldiers hurt by one playing with grenade

NINE soldiers were injured, two moderately and seven lightly, near Yeroham yesterday when an old hand grenade exploded after a

soldier toyed with it and threw it at a group of soldiers nearby.

All nine, from an infantry unit on its annual exercise, were taken to Beersheba's Soroka Hospital.

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak suspended all Ground Corps Command training pending an investigation of the incident. OC Ground Corps Command Maj.-Gen. Ze'ev Livne appointed a board of inquiry.

Aloa Pinkas



18071009

Husseini: City approved Orient House for office use

THE Jerusalem Municipality in 1988 allowed Orient House to be used for offices, despite being zoned as a hotel, making the city's current attempt to shut it down for zoning violations "a joke," Faisal Husseini, the leading PLO official in Jerusalem, said yesterday.

"[Mayor Ehud] Olmert has made a big mistake," Husseini said in an interview, adding Orient House lawyers have documents showing the municipality had given the approval.

Two weeks ago the city threatened to close down the PLO headquarters on the grounds it is in violation of the building code, and presented PLO officials with an order to which they had until Sunday to respond.

The municipality, however, is delaying taking legal action, pending a meeting expected later this week among Olmert, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair on the matter.

"Olmert would make a fool of himself if he took us to court," said

BILL HUTMAN

attorney Jonathan Kuttab, who represents the Orient House owners, who are distant relatives of Husseini.

According to Husseini and Kuttab, up until 1988, Orient House was used as a hotel. That year, the owners sent letters to the municipality, Tourism Ministry, and National Insurance Institute, reporting that the hotel in the historic eastern Jerusalem building was being closed.

Several months later, the owners again wrote the authorities informing them the building was being rented out to several offices, including Husseini's Arab Studies Society.

The municipality responded in writing approving the use of the building as offices and saying that *armona* (property taxes) for Orient House would be charged at the rate for offices, and not the hotel rate, according to Husseini

and Kuttab.

The city recognized Orient House as an office building — though it did not accept the PLO headquarters being there — up until last month, when Olmert publicly charged the PLO office must go because the building is zoned as a hotel.

The city spokesman said Husseini and Kuttab were mistaken, because approval of *armona* rates does not constitute a go-ahead to use a building in violation of its zoning.

The Orient House owners were in fact notifying the city that they were entering a higher property-tax category, the spokesman said. Property tax officials in such cases often do not check the zoning, he said.

"We have stated from the outset, that if Orient House has documents it wants to show the municipality, or wants to request a zoning change, it should do so like any other organization in the city," the spokesman said.

Shas won't return to coalition

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

SHAS will not rejoin the coalition, according to a decision of the party's Council of Torah Sages reached late last week.

Shas spiritual leader Rabbi Ovadia Yosef informed Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's bureau chief, Eitan Haber, of the council's ruling, thus speeding up Rabin's decision to appoint Ehud Barak interior minister, give Deputy Minister Yossi Beilin the Economic Planning portfolio, and keep Shimon Shetret as religious affairs minister.

Until yesterday, Rabin was still considering keeping the interior and religious affairs portfolios for Shas, in case it decided to return to the government.

Yosef was in favor of joining the cabinet, mainly to regain control of the interior and religious affairs ministries and stop the reforms which Shetret is effecting in the Religious Affairs Ministry.

However, Shas leader Aryeh Deri strongly opposed reentering the coalition, and warned the Torah Sages that doing so at this stage would damage the party's chances in the next elections, by driving away many of its right-wing constituents.

Deri said yesterday that the issue which determined the council's decision was "the concern for the safety of the settlers in Judea and Samaria during the coming year."

Settlers stake claim to Efrat hill

HERB KEINON

SETTLERS moved six mobile homes onto a barren hill in Efrat yesterday, and 12 families moved into empty apartments in Kiryat Arba, as settlers moved to stake their claims before IDF redeployment in the territories.

The six mobile homes that were moved to Givat Hazayit in Efrat came just four days after Prime Minister Rabin gave his permission to place 18 mobile homes on the hill. This followed protests last week, during which 42 settlers were arrested.

Efrat Local Council head Yimon Ahimian termed the whole Givat Hazayit episode "Kafkaesque," saying that after the government gave Efrat permission to build on the hill in January, purely bureaucratic tangles kept construction from getting under way. He said that while permission was granted to build permanent structures on the hill, special permission — which the local council did not have — needed to be obtained to move mobile homes from one site to the next.

Ahimian said that the rest of the mobile homes will be moved to the site "in the next few days," and that permanent construction of some 300 apartments on the site will commence "within a couple of weeks."

Ahimian said the council wants to get the mobile homes on the hill quickly, because some of the people who had bought homes there need places to live while their homes are under construction. He added that it is important for the council to stake a presence there during the period of redeployment negotiations.

Yehudit Tayar, a spokeswoman for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, said the Efrat residents moved the mobile homes on the hill now because of the feeling that, "We have to get there before the Palestinians, we have to put something on the ground to keep the Palestinians from taking it over."

In Kiryat Arba, meanwhile, 12 families moved into the Ashdod Yitzhak neighborhood in the settlement, also trying to stake a claim before IDF redeployment.

Kiryat Arba activist David Wilder said, "An underlying factor in the move is the feeling that anything left vacant is up for grabs."

NRP to lead protest against joint control of Rachel's Tomb

HERB KEINON

THE National Religious Party is planning a march from Jerusalem's Gilo neighborhood to Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem today, and the haredi parties have scheduled a mass prayer demonstration at the site next week to protest plans for joint Israeli-Palestinian control of the holy site.

The NRP yesterday called for absolute Israeli control over the 450 meters from Jerusalem's city border to the tomb, and control over the tomb itself.

Shas also called for Israel retaining control over the tomb, a frequent pilgrimage site for Jews. Shas MK Shlomo Benizri told Arutz 7 radio, "We will fight until the end to ensure that Rachel's Tomb is not given exclusively into Palestinian hands, but that it should stay in the hands of the IDF ... This is of utmost importance to us, and we do not intend on giving up on it."

But Yasser Abed-Rabbo, the Palestinian Authority's Minister of Culture, Arts, and Information, said the site never belonged to the Jews. "The land is and has always been

the property of the Islamic Wakf," Abed-Rabbo told Reuters. "It belongs to the Muslims since its inception ... and it never was with the Jews."

Yimon Ahimian, the head of the local council of Efrat, south of Bethlehem, termed the government's readiness to compromise on Rachel's Tomb a "scandal."

"Jews in the Diaspora dreamed of Rachel's Tomb for 2,000 years," Ahimian said. Then, after quoting a verse in Jeremiah that reads, "A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping, Rachel is weeping for her children," Ahimian added: "now the children are weeping for Rachel."

Bobby Brown, head of the Gush Etzion settlement of Tekoa, said that a willingness to give up control of the tomb is an indication of the "government's lack of concern for Jewish values."

Brown said that if the site is not under full Israeli control, then only a few devoted people will visit the site, not the large number who regularly make pilgrimages there now.



Kalkilya residents, who will eventually be part of the preventive security forces in their hometown, undergo a training session in Jericho yesterday.

In Kalkilya, the Green Line is absolute reality

BEFORE THE REDEPLOYMENT
JON IMMANUEL

KALKILYA stands in the middle of a sea of Israeli towns and settlements. Self-rule here means to Palestinians that despite Israel's best demographic efforts to erase it, the Green Line lives and a new fence along part of the line bears them out.

Surrounded on three sides by the Green Line, there are surprisingly few Israeli visitors to Kalkilya. The town seems subdued, unlike once fearful Jenin, where Israeli cars are now common as preparations for self-rule have gotten under way.

Kalkilya has not yet decided who will replace its Israeli-appointed mayor, Abdel Rahman Abu Snehel, who, locals say, lives in Tiberias and comes to town for an hour a week accompanied by border policemen to sign papers. No new authority is in place, but the Preventive Security Apparatus run by Col. Jibril Rajoub in Jericho has become semi-official after months of clandestine operations.

Rajoub's functionaries are the Fatah operatives who have been the real enforcement agencies in Palestinian towns for several years.

In Kalkilya, the commander is to be Ahmed Schreim, a former long-serving prisoner. "We cannot do anything on the ground yet, but we report names of drug dealers and such," he says. He points out two dealers walking down the street. "We will arrest them when redeployment begins."

Collaborators have mostly fled, except those the Israelis considered too minor to help. "Many came from Gaza. They have Israeli IDs and will move to Taiba," said Abdullah Schreim, a businessman cousin of Schreim, who says he used to own four shops, but has been reduced to one grocery because of the deteriorating economic situation.

This is largely because the number of permits for Kalkilya workers in Israel has dropped from 12,000 to 3,000 since 1988.

Some 250 local men are training in Jericho for the preventive security force in Kalkilya. This large group will also be responsible for the entire Kalkilya area that includes 120,000 people in 31 towns. Only 160 civil police are expected to patrol Kalkilya, which has some 30,000 residents.

The suicide bomber who blew up bus No. 5 in Tel Aviv nine months ago was from Kalkilya and many Israelis are worried. "If they did that when we were there, what will they do when we aren't?" asked Ofer Hurwitz, a contractor building in neighboring Tzur Yigal.

"What are they worried about? We are fencing in terror through the peace process," says Schreim.

In fact more than two kilometers of fence topped with barbed wire, on a perimeter road looking very like a border, has been erected on the Green Line along the edge of the fields of Kalkilya. There they meet the growing town of Tsur Yigal, which wants neighboring Eyal to take it to four kilometers.

Not that the fence provides a buffer.

Roadblocks or not, hundreds of workers cross the fields from Kalkilya to the new settlement every day through the fence gate, where no one checks them. "We leave the gates open. There is some stealing. But it's the job of the police to check them. The state should give us money or soldiers for guard duty, since we are on the dividing line. We don't feel threatened," said Avraham Rutzy, chairman of the local housing committee.

Nevertheless, a notice went up this week announcing a Civil Guard recruitment campaign.

Pro-Hebron demo ends in exchange of blows with police

BILL HUTMAN

TWO demonstrators, including a 70-year-old American, and three policemen were hospitalized yesterday, after demonstrators and police exchanged blows at a Jerusalem courthouse, where the case of Hebron settlers detained over the weekend was being heard.

The demonstrators, a group of about 50 visiting American supporters of the settlement movement, charged the police with brutality, saying they have film footage to back it up.

Police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby denied the charges. "Police used reasonable force after calling several times for the crowd to disperse. The demonstrators punched, spit at, and cursed the policemen."

Three of the demonstrators — including two members of the American group, called Chizuk — were detained for allegedly punching policemen. One of the policemen was still hospitalized last night with a concussion.

Demonstrators said Walter Zakes, 70, from Houston, fell down as police tried to force the group out of the Jerusalem District Court building, and was then kicked in the face

several times by a police officer.

"We didn't have signs and had not come to make a protest," said Jeff Reznick, a spokesman for Chizuk. Rather, he said, the group wanted to see first hand how the settlers, mainly youths, were being treated.

"We were preparing to go, and I asked the officer if we could only first be allowed to give the youths a couple of bags we had with drinks, food, and tefillin, because we heard they were hungry and did not have their religious articles," Reznick said.

The group was outside the courtroom, having been told by police and security guards that there was no room inside, Reznick said. "Before we knew what was happening we were being pushed and shoved," he said. Reznick admitted that several group members punched back. He said he would make an official complaint about the policemen's conduct.

The court was eventually cleared. The 13 Hebron settlers at the hearing were all released on bail, it was reported. They had been detained Saturday night for alleged involvement in a disturbance in Hebron.

PM rejects Hussein appeal for Bosnia aid

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin turned aside an appeal by Jordan's King Hussein three nights ago to provide unspecified assistance to Bosnia. In response to a question about Bosnia in Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday, Rabin said, "While as a human being and a Jew I condemn persecution on religious grounds, I told [Husseini] that I believe it is the job of Europe and other strong and rich countries" to come to Bosnia's assistance.

David Makovsky

Two SLA men hurt by bomb

DAVID RUDGE

THE casualty toll in the ranks of the South Lebanese Army continued to mount yesterday, as two more soldiers were wounded by a roadside bomb near Kantara village in the security zone's central sector.

It brings to eight the number of SLA soldiers wounded in similar incidents over the past week.

At about the same time of the bomb detonation near a passing patrol, gunmen opened fire with mortars, anti-tank missiles, and machine guns at an SLA outpost in the same area. There were no casualties as a result of the shooting and IDF and SLA gunmen returned fire.

(Continued from Page One)

and Mt. Gerizim would fall under Palestinian control. The compromise formula regarding eastern Jerusalem would allow them to run for election if they can prove they also have a home in the territories. This was the option presented by Rabin to the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

At the same time, he said the two sides remain at odds regarding whether ballot boxes would be posted in the eastern part of the city or not.

Faisal Husseini, the senior PLO official in Jerusalem, said in an interview that the Palestinian Authority has agreed Palestinian candidates will have to show they also have a residence outside of Jerusalem.

However, Husseini said he does not believe this will narrow the field of candidates, since virtually all Jerusalem Palestinians can list a residence of a family member outside the municipal boundaries, Husseini said.

"We are close to having a certain understanding that the Pal-

VOTE

tinians [in Jerusalem] have both the rights to elect and be elected," Husseini said.

Rabin also told the Knesset panel yesterday that the issue of water usage in the territories is crucial. He said if this issue is not resolved satisfactorily, "We will not sign."

Rabin said that Israel must ensure that Palestinian drilling does not adversely affect Israeli aquifers, and that adequate water is provided both to Palestinians and settlers in the territories.

Another problem is sewage disposal. "There is a problem of contamination of sewage. We are trying to raise funding abroad to deal with this," Rabin said.

The premier also predicted to the panel that all 15 bypass roads that will enable settlers to avoid Palestinian municipal areas would be completed by December, at a cost of NIS 140 million.

ODDS

has argued against Israel having any early warning ground stations, saying that Israel did not obtain this in the peace treaty with Egypt. Damascus believes Israel should be content with aerial surveillance.

Rabin indicated that he did not think the Egyptian peace treaty should be copied in every detail, noting the differences between the Golan and the Sinai.

Meanwhile, Rabin warned the committee members yesterday that a side effect of the current impasse with Syria could be a heating up of southern Lebanon. He quickly added, "I hope not."

Hillel Kutler contributed to this report.

(Continued from Page One)

is in your court."

Another senior US official said the main objective is "placing the emphasis on keeping the process moving, [so as] not to allow the perception of a crisis to appear."

So far, the US has confined itself to making background instead of public statements supporting Israel's position on this issue.

A senior Clinton administration official said, "I'll reiterate: We believe that commitments were entered into by the Syrians and they need to be kept ... Our views are clear: It has to be based on the previous assumptions."

Christopher spoke with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara over the weekend "simply to reiterate this is our position," he said.

Rabin told the Labor faction in the Knesset yesterday that Syria

Our Crown Has Fallen
RAE CLAIRE BLACKMAN
Daughter of Harry and Sarah Abramson ז"ל
Wife of Marvin
Mother of Joshua and Aaron
Burial will take place at Har Hamenuhot today, Tuesday, 20 Tammuz, at approximately 6:45 p.m. (1 1/2 hours after the arrival of Eil Al flight 008).
Shiva at 4 Hamatzor, Katamon, Jerusalem, Tel. 02-619582.
Shaharit at 7:00 a.m., Minha/Ma'ariv at 7:20 p.m.

ARRIVALS

World WIZO President Raya Jaglom for Geneva.

DEPARTURES

The Chairman of the International Board of Trustees of the I.T.C., Mr. Edward Reich, and his wife, Leah, from Chicago, Ill., to attend meetings with the Israeli management.



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Ticking of biological clocks helped to alter stand on surrogacy

BACKGROUND
JUDY SIEGEL

THE Health Ministry initially delved into the complex issue of surrogate motherhood with little enthusiasm: it, in fact, had no choice.

Last November, would-be parents appealed to the High Court of Justice to allow such arrangements here, charging that the ministry regulation that banned surrogacy discriminated against the poor, who could not afford to "rent a womb" abroad.

No one knows exactly how many couples would like to pay another woman to bear their child, but they are estimated to be in the hundreds. In most cases, the woman seeking such an arrangement lacks a uterus, or a pregnancy and delivery would endanger her life, thus undergoing *in vitro* fertilization and carrying the fetus would be impossible.

A ticking biological clock has pushed them to demand legalized surrogacy before the woman's own ova become senescent. Presenting their case before the High Court a few months ago, some of these would-be parents argued that by being prevented from hiring an Israeli surrogate, they were denied the basic right of being parents, and that the freedom of contract, as well as the freedom of occupation of doctors and potential surrogates, was also being violated.

The court then instructed the ministry to explain why it had not abolished the 1987 regulation preventing couples from having children via surrogate mothers.

Four months before they presented their suit — and nearly four years after surrogacy activists

first raised the issue — a committee of experts issued a 126-page report in which the majority recommended the legalization of surrogate motherhood.

The Aloni Committee, headed by retired district court judge Shaul Aloni, also included a psychologist and a sociologist from Tel Aviv University, a Hadassah-University Hospital gynecologist, the head of the state adoption service, a medical ethicist who is also a rabbi and gynecologist, a Hebrew University philosopher, and a Justice Ministry lawyer.

The ministry has not issued its version of the bill, but officials have already said they will insist that the surrogate mother may not donate her own ovum to produce the baby, and that the egg comes either from the commissioning mother or another donor.

In addition, fertilization could be carried out only in a facility authorized by the ministry. At least one of the parents who will adopt the baby born to the surrogate mother would have to be a biological parent (i.e., provide the ovum or the sperm).

A surrogacy committee would make sure that the surrogate mother is psychologically suitable. Both sides will have to agree to the arrangement, and the couple will be presented with all the other possibilities for becoming parents.

Surrogacy has been recognized as "not illegal" in some Western countries and a few US states, but if the bill is passed, Israel will be the first country in the world to explicitly legalize and supervise it.

Sneh welcomes lifting of ban; rules on surrogacy being set up

JUDY SIEGEL

HEALTH Minister Ephraim Sneh yesterday welcomed the High Court of Justice decision to cancel regulations prohibiting surrogate motherhood here.

Sneh said the court had thereby accepted the views of the ministry, which is working on new rules to control and to supervise surrogacy. He said the ministry's surrogacy bill is being discussed by the ministerial committee on legislation, which will meet again today.

The ministry has "completed its role" in preparing the bill, which will legalize surrogacy here, Sneh said. He said he hopes the other ministries affected by the changes — Justice and Labor

and Social Affairs — will help finalize the bill, which is to be brought to the Knesset for approval "by the end of this year."

Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron yesterday said he agrees *de facto* to the High Court decision if halachic guidelines are met. A few months ago, the chief rabbi met with Sneh and decided to establish a joint committee to ensure the bill is written in accordance with Halacha.

Rabbi Dr. Mordechai Halperin, a gynecologist and head of the Schlesinger Institute on Medical Ethics and Halacha in Jerusalem, said yesterday he hopes the

Health Ministry would "continue to deal with the issue seriously and responsibly so surrogacy arrangements will not violate Jewish law."

Halperin, who was a member of the Aloni Commission on Surrogacy and wrote a dissenting opinion that urged caution, said that if registration of biological parents is not carefully carried out, the whole population will require official genealogy books to show their parentage.

In his dissenting opinion in the Aloni report, Halperin insisted that surrogacy arrangements be legal only for couples who cannot

have children by any other means, and not for couples who want another woman to bear their baby merely as a convenience.

Women's organizations were enthusiastic about the court decision. "We regard it as a humane, moving, and important step that will allow women who can't have babies themselves to raise children from babyhood," said WIZO-Israel chairman Helena Glasner.

Na'amat said this decision, and the recent policy change to allow private adoption, will open up new possibilities for thousands of couples who are not wealthy to have a family.

Water chief approves NIS 230m. central filtering

DAVID RUDGE

WATER Commissioner Gideon Tsur has approved the establishment of a NIS 230 million centralized water filtration system, instead of smaller units at the entrance to cities and regional councils.

This follows extensive inquiries into the most efficient way to supply better quality drinking water to consumers, in line with proposed new Health Ministry regulations. The filtration project is to be established along the National Water Carrier at the Eshkol reservoirs site. The design and construction work is expected to be carried out by Mekorot, responsible for running the water carrier, and is likely to take over three years to complete.

Tsur told reporters that one of the factors which played a part in the decision was the cost — NIS 230m. for a centralized plant compared to over NIS 800m. for individual units in various parts of the country. Around half of the water drawn from Lake Kinneret into the water carrier is currently being used to supply domestic consumers. The remainder goes for agriculture and replenishing the massive underground reservoir known as the coastal aquifer.

The amount of water drawn from the carrier for domestic use is expected to rise markedly in the near future because of increased demand, with less going for agriculture due to increased use of purified sewage for irrigation. The system will be capable of filtering up to 75,000 cubic meters of water an hour and will cost around NIS 60 million a year to run. This will increase water production costs by around 13 agorot per cubic meter.

Visa quotas jeopardize Jerash trips

HAIM SHAPIRO

HUNDREDS of Israelis who want to attend the Jerash Festival in Jordan may be unable to do so because of Jordanian visa quotas, according to Makram Machool, director of Jaffa Communications, a company arranging visits to the festival.

Machool said that most of those attending the festival for the first time since the peace treaty with Jordan was signed are Israeli Arabs, attracted by internationally known Arab singers. In addition, he added, following publication of information about the festival in *The Jerusalem Post*, many other Israelis have shown interest in attending the event.

However, he said, once the quota of 60 visas a day was reached, the Jordanians insisted no more Israelis could enter.

Machool has appealed to Jordanian Interior Minister Salameh Hamad to raise the quota for the event, just as Jordan did during the Moslem feast of Id al-Adha. So far he has received no reply, even though the first groups are due to cross the border on Thursday.



Mongolian Ambassador Ishtogoin Ochirbal chats with President Ezer Weizman after presenting his credentials yesterday at Beit Hanassi. Ochirbal, who is resident in Cairo, is the first Mongolian ambassador accredited to Israel since diplomatic relations were established between the two countries in November 1992. Also presenting credentials were Turkish Ambassador Barlas Ozener; Romanian Ambassador Aurel Sanislav, and Ambassador of El Salvador Rafael Alfonso Quinonez Meza. (Text: Batseva Tsur; photo: Brian Hendler)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Suspect held in Karmiel man's murder

A Karmiel man, 30, arrested on suspicion of stabbing to death his friend Oleg Amilchuck over the weekend, was remanded for 15 days yesterday by Acre Magistrate's Court. The suspect, Meli Yarchuli, denied any connection to the murder, saying he had returned after a Shabbat trip and found the door to his Karmiel apartment ajar and Yarchuli dead. *Itm*

Nazareth man stabbed

A 32-year-old Nazareth man was stabbed in the city yesterday afternoon by a youth who fled the scene. The victim was taken in moderate to serious condition to a local hospital. Police said the stabbing was part of a dispute between criminals. Police know the assailant's identity and are searching for him. *Itm*

Bank robber sentenced to three years

The Tel Aviv District Court yesterday sentenced Shimon Bubbut, 24, of Hod Hasharon, to three years' imprisonment for robbing a Tel Aviv branch of the First International Bank of NIS 31,000 in April. Bubbut, who was caught almost immediately by passersby, is the first of several suspects in the recent wave of bank robberies to be sentenced. *Itm*

Ethiopian Jews demand Falash Mura airlift

About 250 Ethiopian immigrants demonstrated opposite the Knesset yesterday morning, demanding that the rest of the Falash Mura be brought here from Ethiopia. The rally, timed to coincide with a meeting of the Knesset Absorption Committee on the issue, was part of a series of recent actions to press their demands. Demonstrators said none of the government's decisions regarding the Falash Mura in recent years has been implemented, hurting members of the Ethiopian community here and the Falash Mura waiting to come here. *Itm*

New rules on sexual harassment

Hints of a sexual nature or remarks that create a sexually threatening atmosphere for a worker in a government office is to be considered sexual harassment, according to new civil service regulations announced yesterday. The Civil Service Commission also decided to set up a special team to process and to investigate complaints of sexual harassment in government offices. The new regulations also state that a woman who is not a government employee but who feels she has been harassed by a government employee can also file a complaint with the commission. *Itm*

Reservist reporting with baby sent home

The army yesterday exempted reserve captain Ariel Cohen from a 30-day stint of reserve duty after he reported with his four-month-old baby, Avshalom, to protest the army's policy regarding exemptions of new fathers.

Cohen took a year's leave of absence from his work to take care of his newborn baby and allow his wife to return to her job as a lawyer. When he was called for reserve duty, Cohen made numerous attempts to explain his special circumstances but could not obtain an exemption. When he appeared yesterday with his son, he was immediately released. *Alon Pinkas*

Journalists' federation quits national press council over 'pandering to publishers'

HELEN KAYE

THE National Federation of Israeli Journalists yesterday announced its immediate secession from the Israel Press Council "in protest at its prolonged ineffectiveness and subservience to the publishers' interests," national president Sara Friedman said.

At issue is the council's failure to approve the new Press Code of Ethics at the July 10 meeting convened specifically for that purpose.

The expected vote was deferred when Ha'aretz publisher Amos Schocken and Yediot Aharonot legal adviser Mibi Mozer objected.

The federation has long accused the council of inaction and delay. It declared that deferment of the vote on the code of ethics was the last straw and that "the publishers' and editors' behavior has made the council superfluous and deprived it of all authority."

The federation said it would immediately approve the code of ethics and establish ethics courts. Public figures and academicians will be solicited to serve on these courts so the public interest will be served.

It was further intimated that council president Haim Zadok, formerly the unpaid legal adviser to the publishers association, was not entirely objective. Zadok refuted the accusations as "nonsense."

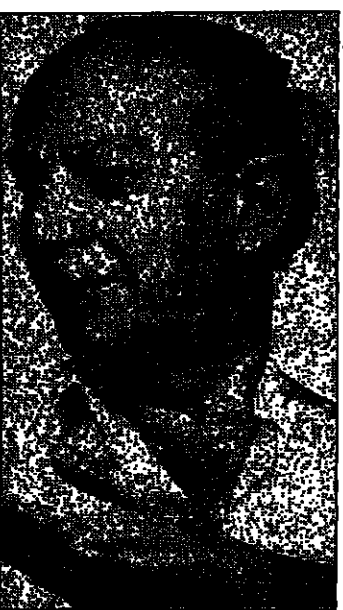
Prof. Amos Shapiro, who chaired the July 10 meeting and has coordinated work on the code, said: "I very much regret the federation's decision and hope that it's not final. I share their frustration."

He confirmed that the meeting was intended as a formality, but maintained that objections raised were legitimate and the federation had not objected when a three-week adjournment was proposed.

Ephraim Evron dies at 75

FORMER Foreign Ministry director-general and ambassador to Washington Ephraim Evron died yesterday morning in Ramat Gan after a long illness. He was 75.

After an initial foreign service posting to Washington, Evron was appointed personal secretary to then foreign minister Moshe Sharett. He later filled the same post for David Ben-Gurion and defense minister Pinhas Lavon. He was appointed Foreign Ministry director-general in 1977, serving under Moshe Dayan, and then was appointed ambassador to Washington. Evron served as president of Haifa University from 1983 until 1987. He is to be buried today at the Kiryat Shaul Cemetery. *(Itm)*



Ephraim Evron (David Rubinger)

Transport Ministry urged to consider reducing speed limit on some roads

JUDY SIEGEL

THE number of soldiers dying in road accidents has more than tripled during the year since the speed limit on parts of some interurban highways was raised to 100 kph.

Dr. Elihu Richter, head of the Unit of Occupational and Environmental Medicine at the Hebrew University-Hadassah Braun School for Public Health and Community Medicine, blames the Transport Ministry for the increase in deaths.

Richter noted yesterday that the IDF never adopted the higher speed limit for soldiers on duty. However, the increase in soldiers' road deaths to 45 during the past year, from 17 the previous year, indicates that soldiers "adopted" the higher speed limit during leaves and accepted it as a norm while driving IDF vehicles, Richter says.

According to Richter's study of the statistics, 15 soldiers have been killed on the roads during military service in the past year, compared to only two during the previous year. An additional 30 were killed in road accidents while on leave, compared to 15 the previous year.

Richter maintained that soldiers have become "addicted" to higher road speeds reached by civilians. He noted that this is particularly worrisome, since young people are in any case the group at highest risk for road accidents.

Road deaths throughout the country jumped from 489 per year before the speed limit was increased to 552 during the past year, Richter said, without reference to the increase in the number of vehicles during that period. Presenting his data to Prof. Moshe Livneh, head of the public committee that recommended the speed increase, Richter called for its cancellation, and for setting the maximum of speed for trucks to 80 kph.

He also advocates the installation of video cameras on roads around the country to catch speeding drivers, and for setting a 30 kph speed limit in congested urban areas.

Othniel Schneller, director of the Accident Prevention Council, was yesterday unable to respond to Richter's comments because he was representing the Transport Ministry in the bilateral talks with the Palestinians.

Two pedestrians killed on roads

TWO pedestrians, one a little girl, were struck and killed by vehicles yesterday.

The girl, four years old, was hit by a pickup truck as she tried to cross the street in front of her home in Rehovot. She had managed to reach a traffic island in the middle of the street safely, but was struck and killed as she stepped off the other side.

In Netanya, 51-year-old Haim Eliahu was killed when he was struck by a car driven by a Haifa man early yesterday morning. *(Itm)*

The Wexner Israel Fellowship Program at Harvard University

The Wexner Israel Fellowship Program annually sponsors ten Israeli Government Officials in the Mid-Career Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Fellowships will be granted for an eleven month period, starting August 1996, during which the fellows will complete the Mid-Career Masters in Public Administration Program, including Harvard's Summer Program.

The Wexner Israel Fellowship will cover tuition and fees at the Kennedy School plus health insurance, travel costs and a monthly living allowance for the fellows and their families.

Eligibility:

- * At least five years of substantial experience in the public sector (government or local authorities) or in statutory public service bodies, such as the Bank of Israel, the Israel Broadcasting Authority, the National Insurance Institute, the Ports Authority, etc.
- * Age 30 to 45 years.
- * A career reflecting significant achievement in the public sector.
- * Command of English (TOEFL).

Fellows must commit themselves to continue employment in the Israeli public service following completion of the program.

The Foundation welcomes applications and inquiries. For further information, contact:

B. Gus, The Wexner Israel Fellowship Program, 18 Sa'adia Gaon St., Jerusalem 92267

Last date to request application materials: November 30, 1995. Completed applications must be submitted by December 15, 1995.

As Shown on Television					
Deal of the Week	Maccabee Beer	Red Turkey Meat	Persil Detergent		
	6 pack 330 ml	1 kg.	4.5 kg.	Persil	
6x	1.99	9.99	29.90		
CO-OP	BLUE SQUARE	CO-OP	SUPER CO-OP	HYPER CO-OP	CO-OP BLUE SQUARE

NATO in landmark talks with Russia

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - Russia held landmark talks with NATO yesterday on its "special relationship" with the military alliance and declared strong opposition to enlargement of a bloc it still eyes with vestiges of suspicion.

Russia's ambassador to Brussels, Vitaly Churkin, said after meeting ambassadors to the 16-nation alliance that the talks had gone well and further meetings were planned in September.

"The relationship with NATO is an evolutionary one. It will proceed and develop as we learn to cooperate and the European security structure is being shaped up," he told reporters.

"We are looking forward to an intensive period of work in the months to come," he added.

Asked if Russia had repeated strong objections to NATO opening its ranks to eastern Europeans, Churkin said: "Yes we did," but did not comment further.

After months of hesitation, Moscow signed up to NATO's Partnership for Peace (PfP) programme on May 31. It initiated an individual partnership programme and a second document offering an enhanced dialogue on security issues.

The NATO-Russia talks at the alliance's headquarters were the first in a series expected to lead to a new, all-embracing treaty by the end of the year.

"There was satisfaction that after all of the months that seem to have been lost, Russia clearly wants to move ahead. Things look as if they will happen," said a NATO official after yesterday's meeting.

The main aim, he said, was to develop a close, constructive relationship with Russia which would run parallel to plans by the alliance to enlarge eastwards.

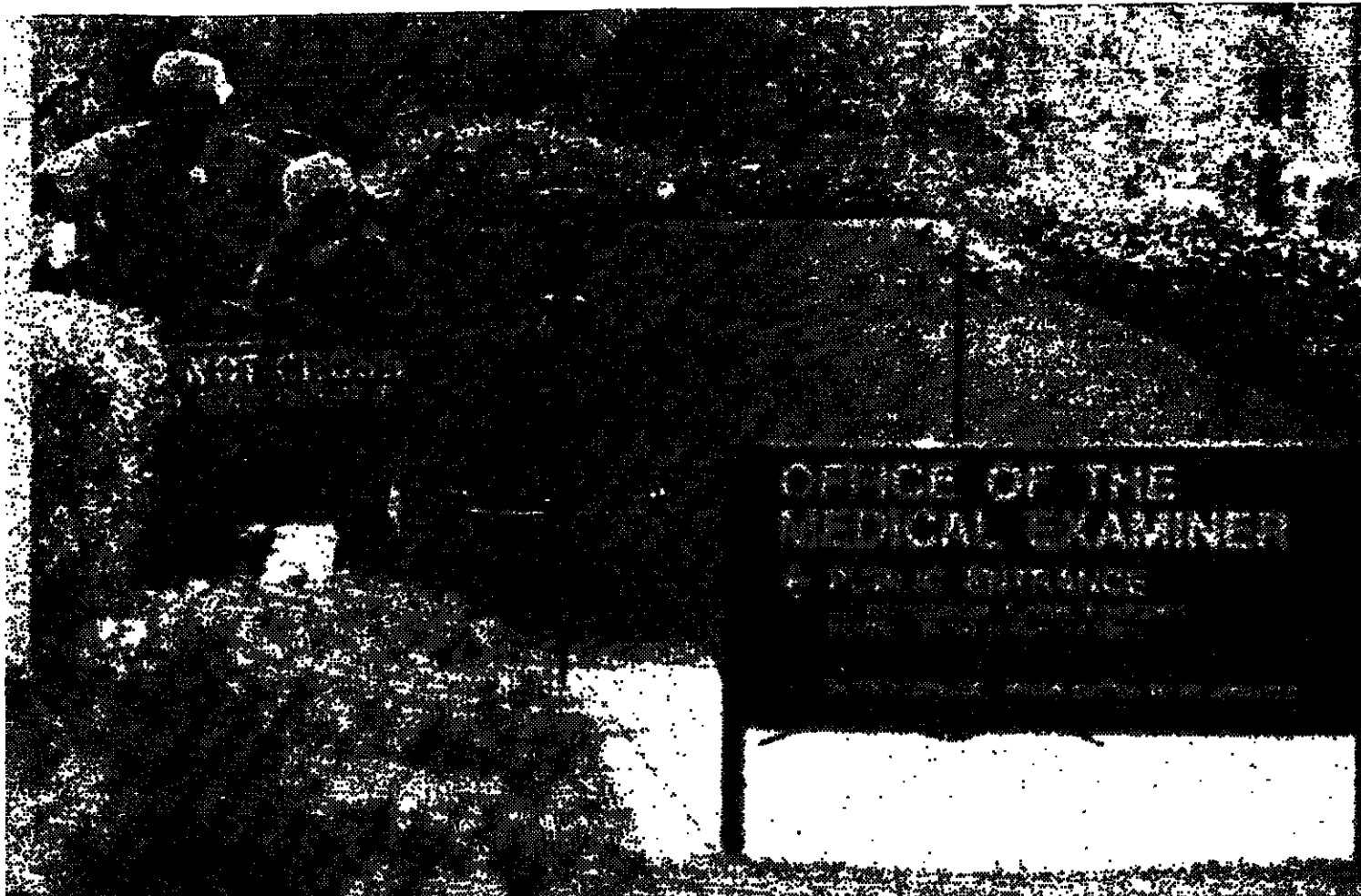
"This dialogue will recognise the fact that Russia has an important, proper role to play in European security and that a productive NATO-Russia relationship along with the enlargement of the alliance are essential elements of a future European security architecture," the official said.

He added that one priority was to get Russia more involved in NATO activities and said Churkin had mentioned the creation of a "hot line" between Moscow and alliance headquarters.

Two senior Russian generals also gave a formal presentation to NATO ambassadors on their views on the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty.

"They gave the Russian view of how the CFE treaty should be modified to accommodate Russian concerns in the Caucasus area," the NATO official said, refusing further comment.

Russia has said in the past it may not be able to go on respecting the 1990 CFE treaty because of instability in the Caucasus region and other security problems following the collapse of the Soviet Union.



Workers at the Cook County morgue in Chicago lean against a police barricade as they take a break from their work yesterday. The morgue has been using refrigerated trucks after running out of space.

US heat wave death toll tops 200

CHICAGO (AP) - Police vans backed into the morgue to unload their unsettling cargo: scores of heat wave victims, many elderly.

Deaths in Chicago from five days of heat above 32° Celsius rose to at least 118 by Sunday, including two elderly sisters found lying together in bed. An air conditioner at the front of the house had not sent enough cool air into the bedroom, officials said.

"The true scope of this problem has not yet been accounted for," said Cook County medical examiner Edmund Donoghue.

"We feel confident its going above 200 and could reach 300." The 56 deaths reported Sunday, added to 62 others in the city since Wednesday, pushed the national death toll from heat and storms to at least 222. Among those who died was an 80-year-

old Pennsylvania man who had been out sealing his driveway in 34° heat.

The death toll topped that of 1987, when at least 96 deaths from the Plains to the East Coast were blamed on heat, but did not approach the estimated 1,500 fatalities from a 1980 heat wave.

While the toll rose over the weekend with new reports of deaths, the worst of the stifling weather seemed to be over. It was 33° C on Sunday at Baltimore-Washington International Airport, compared with 39° C - a record - on Saturday. Boston enjoyed a high of 36° C, down sharply from 38° C on Friday, the hottest it's been since 1977. Chicago topped out at just 33° C Sunday and was predicted to have temperatures in the mid-20s °C Monday.

In Philadelphia, autopsies per-

formed Sunday revealed that heat contributed to the death of 15 people, said Jeff Moran, a spokesman for the city Health Department. In New York City, 11 people died of heat-related causes in the 24 hours ending at 8 a.m., said Ellen Borakove, a spokeswoman for the medical examiner. Washington, D.C., reported seven deaths apparently linked to the heat.

Most of the Chicago victims were elderly, many of whom lived in homes with little or no cooling.

Chicago rescue workers discovered the body of Donald Stevens, a military veteran in his 70s, in his sweltering North Side home early Sunday. His dog also had died.

In the same area, Gaby Kuhn checked on her neighbor Mabel Swanson, 87, and found her dead near her walker.

"We had just set up all of her fans the day before," said Ms. Kuhn, who noted that her neighbor - a "private person" - had refused offers to stay with others in air-conditioned homes.

Other heat wave victims in Chicago included a 75-year-old woman and her 65-year-old husband, found dead in their 49° bedroom with a ceiling fan whirling overhead.

"We wondered why they were in the bedroom and not in the basement where it's cool, but they couldn't walk down there," neighbor Danyel Gooch said.

As police vans filled with the dead rolled in, the morgue's 222 galleys were filled and other bodies lay on wooden shelves. Seven refrigerated trucks, which hold 30 bodies each, had been brought in and were lined up outside to help store the bodies.

Brazilian Navy arms depot explodes 'like war movie'

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) - In a scene one witness likened to a "war movie," explosions tore through the Brazilian navy's primary arms depot on an island 200 meters offshore.

Despite early reports of casualties, the navy said Monday no one was killed or missing in the explosions. Twenty-three military personnel were hospitalized for minor injuries, the navy spokesman, Capt. Enrico Wellington Liberatti, said.

TV Globo, quoting the Navy Ministry, said as many as 40 people were on the island. Initial reports citing unidentified navy officials had put that figure at 100.

Thirty-seven homes on Boqueirão Island, the site of the explosions Sunday evening, also were destroyed, TV Globo said.

"The wounded were hugging each other and crying," said state Congressman Jose Morais, commander of the nearby Guanabara Yacht Club. "It looked like a war movie here."

The detonations began about 5:30 p.m. and lasted 90 minutes, creating a large cloud. Smaller explosions continued hours afterward.

Television showed flames throughout the depot, almost five hours after the first explosion.

Liberatti said the three depots that blew up contained "light ammunition for portable armaments, such as grenades, mortars and cannon shells." He denied TV reports that the depot stored

heavy explosives, including top- does and Exocet missiles.

The way the depots are built made the explosion particularly dramatic, he said.

"Most are partly underground, with extremely reinforced walls and a relatively fragile roof," he said. "There was a great vertical evolution of the explosions, but laterally, nothing happened. Even at the site we didn't have any fatalities."

Some radio reports speculated that a hot-air balloon - popular at street parties this time of year - could have caused the explosions. But Liberatti said there was no evidence to support the theory. The ministry began an official investigation yesterday.

Morais said members of his yacht club rescued a dozen injured navy cadets who swam from the island.

"We heard the screams but there was too much smoke to see anyone," Morais said. "There was so much gunpowder in the air that it got in the eyes."

An engineer, Andre Luiz Colin, was driving with his wife and two children Sunday evening along nearby Freguesia Beach on the mainland.

"There was a big first explosion followed by smaller ones," Colin said. "People ran out of their homes in panic. One car hit another as drivers tried to rush away driving in the opposite lane. ... My kids cried with each new explosion and aftershock."

Freed Americans head home from Iraq

AMMAN (Reuters) - Two Americans freed from long Iraqi jail sentences by President Saddam Hussein arrived in the Jordanian capital Amman yesterday relieved to be going home.

A US Congressman who went to Baghdad to ask for their release said Saddam had been warm as well as tough in an hour-long meeting.

"I feel very great...very good... I am happy to reunite with my family," said a smiling William Barboon at Jordan's Al-Karameh border post with Iraq.

He and David Daliberti, both clad in jeans and white shirts, crossed from Iraq with Bill Richardson, a US Congressman who lobbied for their release.

They were sentenced in March to eight years in jail for illegally entering the country but Saddam pardoned them after only four months and ordered their release after meeting Richardson.

"Yes, we were angry we were imprisoned for four months for nothing," Daliberti told a news conference later in Amman. But he added: "We were treated fairly...we were not tortured, whipped or beaten."

"We were innocent victims in this chess game," Barboon said. "A mistake was made at the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border and we spent

four months in an Iraqi prison for it. We are so happy to be looking at you now."

Richardson said he had negotiated for three months with Iraq's ambassador to the United Nations, Nizar Hamdon.

"On July 4 we came to an agreement it will take place on humanitarian grounds... they were tough negotiations, but I believe the right decision was made," he said.

When Saddam ordered the men's release, Richardson recalled: "I instantaneously grabbed his hand and thanked him."

"He is a very strong individual in the sense that it is clear where he stands and he let me know his views on a number of issues. He showed warmth at times," Richardson said of the Iraqi leader who sees the United States as his biggest enemy.

Richardson stressed he went to Baghdad on a humanitarian mission and not as a presidential envoy. Washington's state department supported him but US officials have been at pains to stress they did not negotiate or make any concessions.

Barboon said he and Daliberti - both of whom suffered chest and heart problems in jail - knew they would soon be freed when Iraqi authorities moved them to a guest house on July 8.

Germany jails three for smuggling plutonium

MUNICH (Reuters) - A German judge jailed two Spaniards and a Colombian yesterday for smuggling a suitcase of weapons-grade plutonium from Russia, but said they had been lured by an agent in the pay of German intelligence.

Police seized the 363 grams of plutonium at Munich airport last August off a flight from Moscow, prompting fears that terrorists or renegade governments could obtain the material for blackmail or nuclear weapons programs.

After German media reported that security agents posed as buyers looking for plutonium, Russia accused Bonn of staging the seizure to blacken its name.

Judge Heinz Alert sentenced Colombian Justiniano Torres

Benitez, 38, to four years and 10 months in prison for arms smuggling offences and Spaniard Julio Oroz Eguia, 50, to three years and nine months.

Oroz's compatriot Javier Bengoechea Arraibel, 61, the men's contact arrested in a Munich hotel, received three years.

Alert said he had taken into account their plea that the crime had been provoked by an undercover agent codenamed Rafa who worked for Germany's BND intelligence service.

But Alert said the offer to buy plutonium had been a "private provocation" without BND backing. Once the men offered to provide the material, Bavarian state police posing as the buyer entered direct talks with them.

Nevertheless, the men did not have to be coerced, and were ready to break the law and risk "immeasurable danger" with the toxic cargo in return for a promised \$276 million, Alert said.

Media reports of the security services' involvement angered Moscow and provoked national concern because it appeared that, far from flushing out dangerous material already in Germany, they had created an artificial demand and lured it there.

Alert said the affair had not been initiated by the state.

At the same time he noted there had been no rival buyers for the plutonium, and that Bavarian police must have known it was to be imported from Russia at least three days beforehand.

The men packed the plutonium expertly in a lead-lined case. But German newspapers at the time were full of the danger it might have posed to passengers - or to the city of Munich if the plane had exploded or crashed.

The plutonium seizure led to an agreement between Bonn and Moscow to boost cooperation against nuclear smuggling.

But Russia always denied it was the origin of the plutonium, and joined in with allegations in Der Spiegel magazine that the BND had staged the affair to justify its existence in the post-Cold War era and show Russia's nuclear supervision was lax.

The conduct of the security services is also the subject of an independent parliamentary enquiry.

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New Whitewater hearings focus on White House

WILLIAM SCALLY
WASHINGTON

THE US Senate resumes its Whitewater probe today, shining a harsh spotlight on a tangled financial affair that has dogged President Clinton since before he came to the White House.

Hearings by a Senate special committee will focus on reaction inside the White House to the stunning shock of the death, ruled a suicide, of deputy presidential counsel and Clinton intimate Vincent Foster two years ago.

The hearings start today and continue for three days a week, probably until the Senate starts its summer recess in the second week of August. During that month the House Banking committee will also hold a week of hearings.

Foster, a personal friend of President and Hillary Rodham Clinton, was found dead from a gunshot wound in a Virginia park near Washington on July 20, 1993.

His death was ruled a suicide but an extensive report by former Whitewater special counsel Robert Fiske supporting this conclusion has failed to silence suggestions of foul play and demands for further investigation.

This phase of the Senate hearings, headed by combative Republican Alfonse D'Amato of New York, will concentrate on events inside the White House after Foster's body was found.

D'Amato's committee, which includes all of the Banking Committee, will examine other aspects of Whitewater later. It has a \$950,000 budget to complete work by February 29, 1996.

Foster handled some of the

Clinton's Whitewater affairs, and papers relating to their failed investment in an Arkansas vacation development of that name were taken from his office.

D'Amato has said he wants to know who searched Foster's office and what they were looking for, what happened to his papers, whether any were lost or destroyed and who authorized the transfer of Foster's Whitewater file to a closet in the White House.

"There are many questions that remain unanswered," D'Amato says. "We will have fair, impartial and thorough hearings to help us and the American people to get the facts."

In recent days the White House has sought to show that the Foster Whitewater file contained nothing damaging to the Clintons, allowing reporters to see its contents.

Press reports have said a Secret Service officer told investigators he saw Mrs. Clinton's chief of staff, Margaret Williams, remove documents from Foster's office, but Williams denied it and underwent a successful polygraph test.

The documents, according to published accounts, reflected concern about the tax treatment of the Clintons' Whitewater investment, on which they have said they lost about \$46,000.

The Whitewater affair came to nationwide notice during Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign and has dogged him since. It is being investigated by a special prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, named last August to succeed Fiske.



A Bosnian government soldier, who fought his way out of Srebrenica, walks with other refugees to the UN camp in Tuzla yesterday. Bosnian Serb forces were poised to capture the enclave of Zepa.

Serbs threaten to fire on UN peacekeepers in Zepa

News agencies

SARAJEVO - Bosnian Serb troops, poised to capture the Moslem enclave of Zepa yesterday, threatened to fire on its UN peacekeepers if NATO warplanes intervened.

Separatist Serb forces laid mines around a checkpoint guarded by Ukrainian troops and UN spokesman Alexander Ivanko told reporters: "The (local Bosnian Serb) brigade commander said that if NATO sent a presence, the checkpoint will be shot at."

The United States is prepared to send military equipment to its European allies to bolster UN peacekeeping but not ground troops to confront advancing Serbs, senior US officials said yesterday.

Even with Bosnian Moslem safe havens falling, the Clinton administration still draws a "red line" against sending American soldiers into action, Secretary of State Warren Christopher said.

Decisions on bolstering the UN peacekeeping mission will come at a meeting of allies Friday in London. Christopher said he is attending with Defense Secretary William Perry and Gen. John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"Clearly, that will be a meeting in which we will have to move the decision process along," Christopher said.

The question foreign and defense ministers of the United

States, Britain, France, Germany and Russia face is "how can we make the UN presence more effective?" Christopher said in a radio interview. He said this could involve more equipment or use of more air power against the Bosnian Serbs.

But Christopher said the decisions must be taken carefully, not least because of the presence of 30,000 potential hostages, the UN peacekeepers. NATO has limited air strikes against the Serbs since they began seizing peacekeepers.

"The situation is disastrous," Christopher said.

European Union foreign ministers met in Brussels, aware

Zepa was beyond saving but that a stand could be made to keep the Serbs out of Gorazde, the biggest of the three eastern "safe areas" and protected by 440 British peacekeepers.

The Ukrainians abandoned six other checkpoints around the UN "safe area" of 15,000 Moslems in eastern Bosnia and the Ukrainian government announced plans to evacuate the soldiers if the situation became too dangerous.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said the situation was critical for the UN Protection Force.

"If the eastern enclaves fall...it will be very difficult to keep UNPROFOR. We now need concrete steps to secure survival of Sarajevo and Gorazde," he told reporters.

150 said killed by Sri Lanka truck bomb

COLOMBO - Government-run television said yesterday a truck explosion killed up to 150 civilians in rebel-held northern Sri Lanka, but military authorities described the report as unconfirmed.

The armed forces last week launched Operation Leap Forward against rebels fighting for an ethnic Tamil homeland in the north and east of the island.

Only a day after the military ended the major offensive came two navy battles and the blast in an explosive-laden truck.

Naval gunboats patrolling near Point Pedro, the northern point of rebel-controlled Jaffna Peninsula, destroyed four guerrilla vessels, killing 21 Tamil Tigers.

In a separate attack, a rebel scuba diver infiltrated a military port and heavily damaged a large navy warship by exploding mines on its hull, killing at least three sailors.

At least 18 sailors were injured aboard the 2,600-ton command ship *Edithara*, naval officials said. Rebel radio reported 10 guerrillas died on boats that sank in the harbor, the Defense Ministry said.

Several small rebel boats first tried to enter the port, but navy guns opened fire, sinking three of them, the Defense Ministry said. The diver then entered the water and planted two mines.

The second blast detonated as the sailors tried to stabilize the damaged vessel and threw grenades into the water at the diver, Sundaram said. (Agencies)

Kashmir hostages plead for lives

SRINAGAR (Reuters) - Five Western hostages, threatened with death by Kashmiri guerrilla captors, made a frantic tape-recorded appeal yesterday to India and their governments to help free them.

"I am well," American Donald Hutchings said in a recorded message. "I don't know if I'll be killed today or tomorrow."

Hutchings, kidnapped with a Norwegian, two Britons and a German, appealed to the Indian and US governments to act quickly. The Al-Farhan separatist group has threatened to kill the hostages unless New Delhi frees 20 arrested guerrillas.

The five were heard telling their partners over an audiotape they were well but could be killed. "The Indian government does not seem to be sorting out the situation," Briton Paul Wells said in the message.

Israeli witness testifies at Maxwell trial

LONDON (Reuters) - Kevin Maxwell tried desperately to save the Maxwell group and was working on a rescue deal with a mystery investor after his father died, an Israeli witness told the trial of the media tycoon's sons yesterday.

Yaakov Ne'eman, a partner in the law firm of Herzog, Fox and Ne'eman which worked for Robert Maxwell in Tel Aviv, said he had drafted a letter for Kevin about an investor willing to put 400 million pounds (NIS 1,911 m.) into the group.

But he did not know the identity of the benefactor. Ne'eman also said Maxwell's sons were having separate negotiations with Yitzhak Moda'i, then finance minister, to help save the group.

"I know that Kevin told me he was looking for an investor or investors and he was trying very hard," Ne'eman said during cross-examination by Kevin's attorney, Alan Jones.

He said he had arranged meetings with potential investors and that David Kimche, a former director of the foreign ministry, knew of someone interested.

"I did not know who the investor is and I did not know who the representative is," Ne'eman said. In the draft letter, which Ne'e-

man said Kevin had needed urgently, the investor was described as serious and prominent and represented by his agent who has an office in Paris. It was not disclosed to whom the letter was addressed.

The prosecution alleges Kevin and Ian Maxwell and two former company directors, Larry Trachtenberg and Robert Bunn, conspired to use shares from the group pension funds to prop up Maxwell's main private holding company after the tycoon died.

Kevin faces an additional charge of conspiring with his father before his death to use other pension fund assets to pay company debts. They deny the charges.

Jones has argued that Kevin is not guilty of using the pension fund assets dishonestly because his father had told him the shares had been transferred to Robert Maxwell Group Plc (RMG), Maxwell's main private holding company.

"It was clear to me that Kevin is doing his utmost to save the group," Ne'eman told the trial, now in its eighth week.

Ne'eman agreed that Robert Maxwell, who was buried in Jerusalem, was highly regarded in Israel and had many important, prominent friends in the country.

LONDON (AP) - Sir Stephen Spender, poet, critic, essayist and one of the pre-eminent British writers of the 1930s, has died at the age of 86.

Spender collapsed at his north London home and was taken to St. Mary's Hospital, where he was pronounced dead, the hospital announced yesterday. His wife, the concert pianist Natasha Litvin, was with him when he died.

Spender was a friend of literary figures W.H. Auden, Christopher Isherwood, Louis MacNeice and Cecil Day-Lewis.

This group of poets, who were to dominate British verse for decades, met while Spender was a student at University College, Oxford University.

Prolific and admired early in his career, Spender wrote less poetry in later years but lectured widely, teaching at universities in Britain and the United States.

He was knighted in 1983 for his services to literature and was

made an honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Spender gained a reputation during the 30s as a left-wing thinker, wrote poetry for the republican side in the Spanish civil war.

He described his disillusionment with communism in his celebrated 1949 *The God That Failed*.

With Auden, Isherwood, Day Lewis and MacNeice, Spender was one of a group of young Oxford intellectuals whose writing opposed the rise of fascism.

A very tall, handsome youth with fair hair and pale blue eyes, Spender was deemed the innocent of the group, the "Holy Fool" as they called him, and the butt of some of their jibes.

Spender was born in Hamp-

stead, north London Feb. 28, 1909, into a distinguished family of political Liberals. His uncle was J.A. Spender, eminent editor of the *Westminster Gazette*.

His mother died when he was 12 and his father, author Harold Spender, five years later.

In 1927, Spender went to Oxford, where fellow student Wystan Hugh Auden - already an admired poet - noticed him, encouraged his work and drew him into his circle of young writers.

Poems published while Spender was still a student attracted attention and critical praise. After Oxford, he traveled in Europe, living in the Berlin of the 30s.

Spender published his first book of poems in 1934, followed by two more, and wrote plays and essays.

British poet Stephen Spender dies at 86



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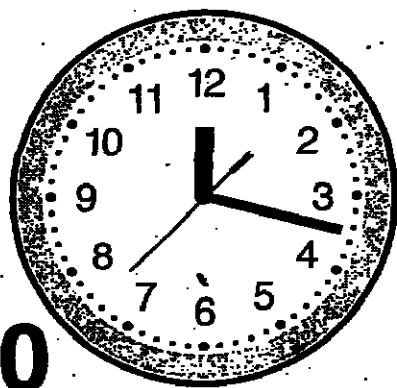
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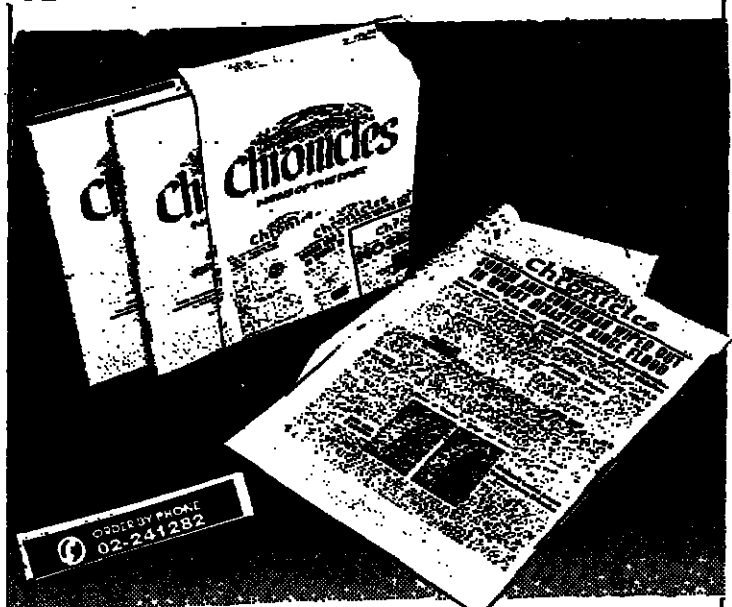
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Normality, Syrian style

SOME enthusiasts for "normal" relations with Syria may look forward to the day when they can take their placards to central Damascus and join Syrian soul mates in demonstrating their solidarity for peace. We strongly advise against it, after thumbing through several catalogues of the horrors that have befallen some of the most innocuous advocates of mild views that have not been stamped "approved" by the hideous security courtiers at the palace of President Hafez Assad.

The two latest reports out this month on human rights in Syria are not recommended as bedtime reading. One is by the New York-based Human Rights Watch and the other is Amnesty International's annual report. Virginia Sherry, a director of Human Rights Watch, who spent time in Syria earlier this year to help compile the report, comments: "The regime is sending a strong message to Syrian citizens that peaceful political action is not going to be tolerated. It's a population in which you pay an extremely high price for daring to dissent."

"Strong message" is something of an understatement. Not many states with which democratic neighbors are being urged to talk "normality" send strong messages to their citizens in the form of ripped-out fingernails, rotation on a spit while being flayed by sadists, or being locked in a metal chair whose moving parts are then extended to crack the victim's back, joints, and neck. A couple of dozen kilometers from Israel's border, such sickening medieval pleasures are enjoyed daily by the employees of Assad's judicial system.

As if to demonstrate that the rigors of applying justice have not tempered their sense of humor, Syrian officials responded to the charges of the human rights monitors by acknowledging that "some rights have been curtailed" but that is because the country is still technically at war with Israel, despite the peace negotiations. "We have to enforce some restrictions to ensure the stability of the country and the health of society," Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Nasser Qadur told Human Rights Watch.

Why of course, minister, that explains everything. It's all the fault of that vicious Zionist entity, and it's a good thing those dissident cripples are being informed who really turned the screws down in the dungeon.

One would be hard pressed to find justification in either the Human Rights Watch or Amnesty reports for some of the periodic guff which surfaces in credulous reports from Middle East experts or foreign visitors on the liberalization, new attitudes, and relaxation of restrictions that are supposedly the new face of Assad the Peace Processor and friend of the West.

But the well-documented truths about the sheer terrorist brutality of Syria will continue to gather dust. At the same time, the bloodthirsty dictator running it all will continue to gather air time and column inches as he is first analyzed for signs of moderation, then applauded for every crumb of mendacity he tosses to those eager beavers desperately hunting "normality."

More Orient House scandals

AFTER visiting Orient House on Saturday, Austrian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Benita Ferrero-Waldner said she intended to meet no Israeli officials, because she did not want to disturb their Sabbath. It was a classic example of an excuse being worse than the act which begat it. The schedule of the Austrian deputy to the foreign minister must be harrowingly crowded, perhaps even more crowded than that of the US secretary of state, but it is somehow difficult to imagine that she could not spend more than precisely 25 hours in Jerusalem. Nor could her sneering remark be mistaken for anything other than the disingenuous, patronizing, and contemptuous attitude characteristic of pre-1945 Austrian officials.

If anything topped this hypocritical diplomatic charade it was the reaction of our own Foreign Ministry. Providing a superb example of man's infinite capacity for diagnosing spit as rain, it expressed relief that the Austrian diplomat saved it an embarrassment by not requesting a meeting with Israeli officials after paying an official visit to Orient House. It seems that by Foreign Ministry criteria there is nothing wrong with treating Orient House as the seat of the Palestinian government and calling for the establishment of a Palestinian capital in the city, as long as the existence of the Israeli sovereignty in the neighborhood is ignored.

Just as disturbing is the story of another recent incident at Orient House. The Border Police unit stationed opposite the compound stopped what it considered a suspicious car

entering the gate two weeks ago. Orient House officials emerged and demanded their release, but since they refused to identify themselves, the police rejected the request. Faisal Hussein then called the Police Ministry on his cellular phone, and the police commander was ordered by ministry adviser Moshe Sasson to relent.

Soon after, Palestinian officials demanded that the police remove an Israeli flag they had raised at their post. When the police refused, Hussein intervened again, and again a high ministry official ordered the unit commander to do as Hussein had requested. The Israeli flag was promptly removed.

The emerging picture is all too clear. Despite its repeated vows to stop the political and diplomatic activities of Orient House, and despite Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's warning that the peace process would be halted if such activities continue, the government is accepting the encroachment of Palestinian sovereignty in Jerusalem with perfect equanimity.

Nor is the government going to let anyone else do anything about this encroachment. May- or Ehud Olmert's efforts to use city ordinances to stop Orient House violations of zoning laws is being effectively frustrated by Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair. Claiming that Olmert is acting out of political motives rather than purely municipal concerns, Ben-Yair issued an opinion last week opposing Olmert's actions. One wonders what he would have said when the US convicted the famous gangster Al Capone, not for the many violent crimes he had committed, but for income tax evasion.



Sliding, slippery slope

RAFI EITAN

DIRECTLY or through the pages of the press, Alignment MKs have lately been appealing to Golan residents in a respectful way which, indeed, the residents merit by virtue of their actions and behavior.

The MKs' expectation is that this change of tone will restore the Golan residents' faith in the Labor Party and the direction it has taken. But such appeals, like those of esteemed MK Ori Orr, are simply exceptions that prove the rule.

The Labor movement, from which most of the Golan residents sprang, has betrayed them. It hasn't taken the trouble to keep them informed, or given them a role in determining their fate. For the past year the prime minister, the foreign minister and other senior ministers have been conducting a campaign of insults and general abuse aimed at delegitimizing those who live on the Golan and in Judea and Samaria.

When the prime minister talks about the heavy cost involved in maintaining their security, he is, in effect, telling them: You don't belong to the people of Israel; you aren't part of the IDF.

Experts differ significantly in their opinions about a settlement with Syria. Assad rules his country with brutal military force. The Alawite population on which he depends for support constitutes no more than 12 percent of all Syrians. The other 88 percent hate Assad and his regime, and are just waiting until he falls.

Thus anyone who signs a treaty with Assad is building on quicksand. The inescapable inference: Security arrangements must be watertight.

But what is happening in practice? Compromises are being made on fundamental issues that shouldn't be conceded - and nothing is being given in return. The basic principle of gradual withdrawal has been demolished, and now they're talking about a total withdrawal from the Golan within a year.

There will almost certainly be a compromise on the international boundary - which means that the Syrians will be literally on the banks of the Kinneret, with access to the water sources of the Yarmuk and Jordan rivers. We have even heard reports of Israel's willingness to compromise on the issue of asymmetry in redeployment; also of total capitulation regarding the reduction of Syria's forces.

The road down from the Golan is paved with conflicting statements

We have already given up our presence in Lebanon, apparently without having received anything in return; and we've accepted Assad's dominion over the whole of that country, presumably on the assumption that he will eliminate Hizbullah.

I MAINTAIN - and I'm talking from personal knowledge - that Assad is incapable of curbing the Shi'ite forces in Lebanon. Furthermore, after his death, the non-Alawite majority, that overwhelming 88 percent of Syrians, will seize power and give free rein to both the terrorist organizations and Shi'ite forces like Hizbullah.

When this happens, the Israeli-Syrian border (which will be down at the level of the Kinneret) won't stay quiet. The border is only quiet today because of its proximity to Damascus. Hizbullah, under Assad's influence, continues to fire Katyushas at intervals at the settlements on our northern border.

And the Israeli government? Instead of responding forcefully, it blames the South Lebanese Army and the IDF for inflaming the sector, and declares that a diplomatic solution is the only answer - as if there has ever been a diplomatic

solution in the Middle East that didn't depend on military force.

In these circumstances, the prime minister and the foreign minister have repeatedly shown themselves untrustworthy, with statements that are contradictory.

IDF officers describe harsh, insulting meetings with the defense minister, and talk about the way the principle of the army being kept apart from politics is being infringed. It is this politicization of the IDF that has caused the epidemic of political leaks from the military, including documents. Failing IDF morale is at least partly responsible for the fact that moshavniks and kibbutzniks, who used to lead the field in volunteering for elite units, are now beginning to refuse recruitment to them.

The government is sliding down a slippery slope of hasty and ill-coordinated decisions. For example, the Treasury wasn't even aware that the 1995 budget, ought to include a billion shekels for bypass roads in Judea and Samaria.

The government is planning the evacuation of Judea and Samaria and the Golan - almost 50,000 families, with industries, IDF redeployment, resettlement, and the construction of new lines of defense - all within a short period, and at a cost experts estimate, at more than a hundred billion shekels. Yet none of this has been taken into account in the government's plans.

Where is the money to come from? We are well aware that the US won't foot the bill. Has anyone considered what such an outlay will do to the Israeli economy?

If a government elected with a particular manifesto then decides to change its mind, it must put itself to another test at the polls. Any change determined by a slim majority - especially one that includes Arab MKs - can only cause a split in the nation. And it may prove irreparable.

The writer is a former senior figure in the intelligence community.

Strange country

YOAV TENENBAUM

A year ago today, a bomb destroyed the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires. Some 100 Jews and non-Jews died in the attack.

As with John Kennedy's murder for Americans, there is hardly an Argentinian Jew who cannot recall exactly where he was when he first heard the news of the bombing, what he felt when he saw the first pictures of the destroyed building, and what he thought during those first hours and days of shock.

I too cannot forget. The Argentinian establishment, led by President Carlos Menem and Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella, professed to be horrified. They declared that the culprits would be apprehended and punished.

A year after the bombing, Argentinian Jews cannot forget...

I wanted to believe their words - as a Jew, and as an Argentinian.

Certainly, Menem's Peronist Movement has not been without antisemitic manifestations. Nor has it lacked individuals possessing scant admiration for the Jewish people.

But Menem has shown himself positively disposed toward the Jewish community, and his public attitude toward the State of Israel is unprecedented among his predecessors. When he declared that those guilty of bombing the community center would be apprehended, I really wanted to believe him.

But those who had attacked the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires the year before had still not been seized. The prospect of a radically different scenario now emerging seemed, quite honestly, remote. And the fear harbored by many that local elements had played a role in the attack against the community center appeared increasingly plausible.

The notion that Argentinians may have been directly involved was not that surprising.

THE TRUTH is yet to be revealed. In the meantime, we are left with recurring images of the destroyed building, with the never-fading memory of the deceased, with the hope of reconstruction.

And we remember what was, and will never return. We muse. About what could have been. About what has been...

On this day of mourning, we recall with pride that Argentina has the largest Jewish community in Latin America, and the largest Jewish community in a Spanish-speaking country since the expulsion from Spain in 1492.

We recall that it has produced one of the most socially vibrant and intellectually dynamic Jewish communities in the world; that, alongside the US, Argentina was regarded as a paradise for Jews trying to escape European antisemitism.

The voices of my grandparents return to me, telling me once again how grateful they will always be to Argentina for giving them something Eastern Europe never gave them: peace.

But to me, and to many Argentinian Jews of my generation, Argentina is a country of strange contrasts.

It is a country that gave our grandparents safe refuge - but persecuted many of our parents who were born and brought up there. It is a country where conditions were ripe for the Jewish community to flourish, but to which Nazis were allowed in.

It is a country where Jews could reach the highest echelons of the professions, but were barred de facto for years from serving as ambassadors, and de jure from serving as president of the republic.

In Argentina Jewish newspapers could be sold freely - but Nazi-inspired literature was permitted too. It is a country where we could forget we were Jewish in the middle of a World Cup celebration, but were made doubly aware of our origins listening to the accounts of Jewish prisoners who had been tortured by the military.

It is a country where Jews could be made to feel at home by their fellow Gentiles, but where a reputable magazine could write in the aftermath of the community center bombing that "Jews and innocent people" were killed.

The writer is a historian and independent political consultant.

The right to refuse orders

JON SIMONS

LIBERAL or left commentators erred by labeling last week's halachic ruling a threat to democracy and the legitimacy of the government, on the grounds that the laws of a democratically elected government cannot be violated in the name of ideological difference.

Such responses which supposedly affirm democracy in the face of the religious-ideological challenge are insensitive to other democratic principles of respect for dissent and minority rights.

Democracy isn't merely a question of majority rule and obedience to the laws of the parliamentary majority. Laws can be fashioned to be more tolerant of those who do not wish to act in the same way as the majority.

Unlike many other democratic states, Israel makes no provision for individual and religious conscientious objection to military service. It is unfair to force soldiers to choose between religious conscience and the duty to obey legal military orders.

Israeli law should be changed so that Orthodox soldiers have the right to refuse orders to evacuate IDF bases just as other soldiers would have the right to refuse to serve in the territories.

Of course the army also has its needs and considerations. So the IDF would have to exercise the authority it already has to excuse or release individuals from military

service. Given that the army currently has a surplus of manpower, it wouldn't be too problematic for it to do without that small minority of soldiers who would demonstrate, according to legally defined guidelines, that their consciences forbid them to carry out certain orders, or to serve at all.

I UPHOLD the right to conscientious objection, religious or secular, regardless of the moral validity of the grounds for that objection. In the case of the evacuation of IDF bases, there is no clash between morality and the law, or between ethics and army orders. It is the Israeli presence in the territories that is immoral, as is the particular brand of Orthodox Jewish thought on which last week's ruling was based.

The "values" underlying religious justification of that Jewish presence are warped, entailing claims for exclusive Jewish rights to the Land of Israel, and thus a

denial of the rights of the Palestinians who live here.

It would be inappropriate for a democracy to determine what it considers moral by majority vote; nor should we expect to reach a consensus about the proper grounds for conscientious objection. Democracies aren't about consensus, but about open contestation of differing perspectives and programs.

I am aware that many in the religious right consider my universalist morality, in which Jews and Palestinians have equal moral worth and rights, to be blasphemy.

The question is not whether the halachic ruling divides the nation, as the nation is already deeply divided over principled issues. More to the point is how we can coexist in spite of these immense differences.

The right to conscientious objection would facilitate coexistence by allowing minorities to opt out of policies offensive to them which are pursued by the majority. Once the majority does not force minorities to do things they find unconscionable, there will be a better atmosphere for open contestation of views.

The truly democratic debate is not about whether soldiers have the right to disobey orders, but about the very premises from which the rabbis argue.

The writer teaches political science at the Hebrew University.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

STONE-THROWING

Sir, - On the way back from a lovely weekend on the shores of the Kinneret, my wife and I had to decide whether to drive through Jericho or take the bypass. Thinking of my three small children strapped snugly into the back seat, we opted for the longer route despite the extra 20 minutes' drive required. Visions of hurled rocks, splintered glass and my injured kids forced me to take no chances.

What an irony that as we entered Jerusalem and headed down Bar Ilan Street, we were greeted by thousands of haredim including children, screaming, gesticulating and, as your pages reported, throwing stones.

How sad to think that after making aliya three years ago, I should be as afraid of some of my fellow Jews as of some of the Arabs of Jericho. My oldest, aged nine, asked whether there was anything to fear and I of course told her not to worry. The truth was that I was frightened for them.

I realize that some of the haredim believe that we were desecrating the Sabbath, but is frightening an innocent child or wounding her not worse still? Clearly, the only answer to this problem is a further separation of Synagogue and State. I defend the right of every Jew to practice as he or she wishes in this land of our forefathers. But, of course, as to everything else in life, there must be a limit.

Prof. A. MARK CLARFIELD, MD, Jerusalem.

THE ISRAEL EXPERIENCE

Sir, - Mark Levinson ("The teen screen," June 3) gives us all the usual litany of criticisms that have been mustered against Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin's "idea of injecting a communally funded visit to Israel into the teen years of every Diaspora Jew." What he neglects to mention is that it works; the so-called Israel experience is the most cost-effective way we know of to deepen the Jewish self-consciousness of our young. The question Jewish policy-makers now have to answer is whether the Jewish self-consciousness of our young is a matter of lip service, of which we have had plenty, or a matter of life and death, in which case we know how to raise whatever money we will need.

SAMUEL NORICH
Teaneck, NJ.

POSTHUMOUS MEDAL

Sir, - I most strongly object to your front-page headline of June 29, declaring that "Rebbe gets posthumous congressional medal." For those of us who believe that the Lubavitcher Rebbe will shortly return to redeem our troubled world, your statement that the Rebbe's medal is posthumous is despairing as well as incorrect. We have not seen the last of the Rebbe, and I assure you that the time will come when the Rebbe gives Congress a posthumous medal of its own.

BEN-ZION TARTAK
Tel Aviv.

'PATHWAYS THROUGH JERUSALEM'

Sir, - Computer columnist Daniel Baum's assessment of our CD-ROM "Pathways Through Jerusalem" (June 25) was so shockingly mean-spirited and inaccurate as to demand a reply.

Baum failed to notice that there are nine, not eight, video "tour guides" for the viewer to choose from. His characterization of one of the guides as an "atheist" would seem a product of his own careless preconceptions. Moreover, he described our four contemporary guides - all of them adults in their 30s and 40s - as "youngsters."

Baum was also immune to the obvious fact that our product, striving to make the most of the exciting potential of multimedia, is intended to be entertaining and amusing as well as informative. The fancifully rendered historical characters he dismisses as "craze" - who co-exist with myriad "serious" features including a comprehensive database, a time line and a wealth of primary source materials ranging from the Bible and Josephus to the journals of archaeologists - are not meant to be taken as literally as one takes a word-processing program, spreadsheet, or encyclopedia entry. Indeed Baum's broadly disdainful remarks about the CD-ROM industry and the Internet suggest he is way behind the curve when it comes to new media.

LEAH LESCH, Producer, "Pathways Through Jerusalem"

هذا من الأصل

Grateful Dead: Good vibes going sour

DAVID BAUDER
ALBANY

THE Grateful Dead road show, a strange but profitable spectacle that is one of rock music's most enduring phenomena, seems cursed this year. Incidents involving unruly fans have prompted the band to issue an unusual rebuke that has some followers fretting that the Grateful Dead's psychedelic show, born in San Francisco in the 1960s, may soon come to an end.

After a July 2 riot at a concert in Indiana, the band's six members posted a letter on the Internet telling their fans, known as "Dead Heads," that their "reputation is at stake" and urging them to police themselves.

"A few more scenes like Sunday night, and we'll quite simply be unable to play," band members said. "The spirit of the Grateful Dead is at stake, and we'll do what we have to do to protect it."

Loyalty to the Dead is so strong that even fans without concert tickets follow the band and camp out in parking lots out-

side the concert venues to soak up the '60s-style atmosphere.

Thousands of such fans battled police and tried to storm the gates in the Noblesville, Indiana, incident. It forced the Dead to cancel the next night's show — their first canceled concert due to fan behavior.

It wasn't the only trouble the band faced this year:

- A wooden deck at a campground crowded with Dead Heads outside of St. Louis collapsed in the rain on July 5, injuring more than 100 people.
- More than 30,000 people stormed the gate at a show in Highgate, Vermont, last month.
- To avoid problems, police simply let everyone in.
- Three people were struck by lightning as they waited outside Washington's RFK Stadium on

June 25 for a concert to begin.

- A handful of fans, angry at drug arrests, threw bottles from a rooftop at police officers outside an Albany, New York, show.
- Police on July 6 reported the deaths of two fans headed to Dead concerts in St. Louis, Missouri. At least one of the deaths was believed to be drug related.

The Grateful Dead — Jerry Garcia, Phil Lesh, Bob Weir, Mickey Hart, Bill Kreutzmann and Vince Welnick — are known for free-wheeling concerts that attract thousands of followers in tie-dyed shirts. The concert tours usually are benign parties that go on for days.

Yet the Grateful Dead's counterculture image masks a business savvy that has made its members rich even though they rarely record. (The last Grateful

Dead studio album was *Built to Last* in 1989.) The Dead are consistently one of the year's top touring bands and already have grossed more than \$29 million this year, the trade publication *Pollstar* reported.

YOUNGER AND more aggressive fans attracted to the scene are blamed by many for trouble. Fans posting Internet messages complain of "negative energy people" at concerts.

Band spokesman Dennis McNally said the Grateful Dead is concerned with "post-punk kids out for a weekend drunk" who have been showing up at concerts. But he said "it's a cycli-

cal thing," noting the band had problems with large and unruly crowds half a decade ago when it had a hit single with "Touch of Gray" in 1987.

The band's Internet message urged fans not to show up at concerts without tickets, to pressure others to behave and to stop turning concert sites into marketplaces. Many traveling fans finance their trips by selling T-shirts and other Grateful Dead paraphernalia in parking lots.

"Want to end the touring life of the Grateful Dead? Allow bottle-throwing gate-crashers to keep on thinking they're cool anarchists instead of the creeps they are," band members wrote. "Want to continue it? Listen to the rules and pressure others to do so."

One fan who was worried

about the incidents said she is compiling a list of concert venues that have been declared off-limits to the Grateful Dead. "How close are we to the end? I think I can see it in the distance," the fan wrote. "My heart is breaking."

McNally said it was too early to tell whether the trouble will make scheduling shows more difficult.

"The two places where we had crowd problems were idyllic rural settings," McNally said. "I think the result of all this will bend us away from that and towards more secure settings, which is unfortunate, but it's the direction we've been moving in."

Some concert-industry experts said they didn't expect long-term repercussions. Promoters are in the business of filling concert arenas, and few bands do it as well as the Grateful Dead.

"I don't think it will shy people away," said Ben Liss, executive director of the North American Concert Promoters Association.

The band always has been cooperative in working with communities to deal with security concerns, he said.

In Albany, New York, a frequent tour stop for the band in recent years, Mayor Gerald Jennings said he weighs security problems against the knowledge that Dead shows pump thousands of dollars into the city's economy.

"I'm not going to say, 'No, you're not wanted,'" Jennings said. "But I will be cautious because I have a community to protect and I have people that live here. I don't want something similar to what's happening in other cities."

McNally said the band's cooperation will continue.

"We are always guests, and in order to be welcome guests, we have to at least keep the circus down to a dull roar," he said. (Associated Press)

Jazzrap great has a fatal flaw

NEW RELEASES

TIRZAH AGASSI

RAP music is a safety valve for society," reflects "message rap" guru. "If there wasn't this music there would be more riots. It'd be crazy hectic yo! If there wasn't no rappers in Manhattan, it would be a terrorist zone."

Guru's grammar improves markedly as he launches into a more intellectual explanation in the promo notes accompanying his new album. "One of the most frustrating things when I was a case-worker," says the son of black middle-class Bostonians, "was that I would often have a case-load of 42 kids, and only be able to reach about three or four of them."

Jazzmatazz Volume 2: The New Reality (NMC), which Guru hosts, is an attempt to reach thousands. "For too long, the black family structure has been systematically divided, especially here in America. We must start paying more attention to one another's needs and showing respect for one another," he intones as the album opens. The message is strong and the music is phenomenal.

After the critical and commercial success of *Jazzmatazz Volume 1*, Guru has been able to attract a dizzying roster of talent to his jazzrap line-up: from Ramsey Lewis to Chakka Khan, Branford Marsalis and Jamiroquai.

The album is brilliant, but unfortunately it has one fatal flaw: preacher man Guru has a Jesus complex. He has all the right ideas about saving the world by reaching out to the streets in their own upgraded idiom, but unfortunately talks about himself too much, repeatedly explaining exactly what he intends to do.

"I look at the *Jazzmatazz* projects as music single mothers in the projects can enjoy with their children," he says. Guru wants to be a surrogate husband and father for the abandoned. It's a noble and timely aim, and taken individually, the songs succeed because they really are musically gorgeous, their message both admirable and intelligently stated.

"Watch What You Say," the album's first single, is, for example, a fine warning to boastful and violent rappers to be careful of the message that will surely boomerang, and shoot them in their own backs. It features Khan (who co-authored the lyrics) doing smoothly flirtatious '40s-style vocals, and Marsalis on fine saxophone. Guru says his piece, often backed by a rhythmic effect that sounds like the razor-sharp swishing of Zorro's swordplay.

Albums sell largely thanks to singles aired on radio and music television. Such small doses may send buyers rushing to the record shops, but I wonder how the album will do in the word-of-mouth department. For surely there will be plenty of listeners like myself who have a hard time sticking with 20 whole cuts in which Guru often forgets the maxim "show, don't tell."

It's sad to see a talented man with marvelous intentions fall into the classic trap of would-be social revolutionaries: taking himself too seriously. There are indeed mothers in the projects who will listen to his message of dignity and reformation, and who will appreciate the exceptional quality of the back-up music. But there are many more who will prefer the soft focus "I'm here on bended knee" ro-



Guru has a Jesus complex and often forgets the maxim 'show, don't tell.' (Thierry Le Goues)

manism of Boyz II Men, while the kids will probably be more titillated by Snoop Doggy Dogg's obscenities.

A bright spot is "Medicine," Guru's duet with Reggae hot-stepper Ini Kamoze. What a relief, amidst all this righteousness, to hear a simple paean to smoking marijuana. Guru, who goes so far as to quote Bob Marley's "Stand Up For Your Rights," forgets that the master lightened up his message with the ease of songs like "Easy Skankin'" and the personal touch of "No Woman No Cry."

Jazzmatazz Volume 2's last cut

is its most telling — about a visit to his ex. Perhaps on Volume 3, the Guru will be ready to explore the dynamics of why relationships like this one flopped. Such material would probably fascinate the single mothers in the projects more than the manifesto that is *Jazzmatazz Volume 2*.

JAZZ IS everywhere this season, even on MTV's hit parade in a video of the song "Scatman" in which "old person" Scatman John teaches a multiracial selection of youths to scat sing over a breezy dance beat. It is a delightful video and a delightful song.

Surely the fact that it is the first cut on *Hit Man 6* (Hed Arzi) has helped this collection catapult to the top of the charts.

Take That's very pretty megahit "Back For Good" is another prime selling point as are Haddaway's "Fly Away," Adiemus's "Adiemus" and Sandra's "Knights In White Satin." Such collections have a tendency to contain a higher percentage of filler than genuine hits. This one gives you your money's worth of the people's choice in an 18-cut sampler of this summer's radio-friendly fare. It may not be socially redeeming, but it's fun.

This 'Requiem' was a heavyweight of musicality, spirit

CONCERT ROUNDUP

VERDI'S Requiem, in the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra's performance conducted by Zubin Mehta, had excitement, tension, faith, supplication and a profoundly human touch. The glorious, radiant tenor of Frederic Kalt set the tone right from his opening notes, and maintained a gripping presence throughout.

There was something captivating about Barbara Dever's caressing, lovely mezzo-soprano. Her intensely entrancing opening of the "Lacrimosa" was one of the performance's highlights.

Kwang-chul Yoon's powerful, deep bass sounded solemn and conveyed an impressive forcefulness.

The weak link among the soloists was Nina Rautio, whose soprano was too strained, grating and violent — not bel canto at all.

The superb Prague Philharmonic Choir expressed the spirit of the piece with all its dramatic impact and subtle nuances. And the IPO, under Mehta, did full justice to this inspired work.

Jerusalem International Convention Center, July 9.
Ury Eppstein

THE DISCIPLINE was purely musical in the performance of the Army and Gada Chamber Orchestra conducted by Menahem Neuberhaus, in the season's final concert of the Youth at the Center series.

The young musicians' playing was joyous and exuberant. And they strove for perfection — something more precious than perfection itself.

Guy Ben-Ziyoni, 21, the soloist in Johann Sebastian Bach's Viola Concerto, displayed a full, sonorous tone, playing the work with refreshing, temperamental vivacity.

Amir Peled's Haydn's Cello Concerto in C major sounded uncommonly lively, even tempestuous. Peled, 21, combined elegance with technical skill and a finely developed sense of dynamic nuances and lyrical expression.

The orchestra's commitment to local contemporary music was demonstrated by the inclusion of Oded Zehavi's *Er'etim* for oboe and strings (1989). Nineteen-year-old Rony Gal-Ed's intense and highly charged expression in the oboe solo captured the work's spirit admirably.

The challenge posed by Stravinsky's quite intricate Concerto in D for Strings was well met by the orchestra, which played with impeccable accuracy and much poise.

Jerusalem Music Center, Mishkenot Sha'ananim, July 7.
Ury Eppstein

THE FOCUS of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra's end-of-season concert, conducted by David Shalom, was Yosef Tal's

Symphony No. 6, in its first local performance.

The abounding contrasts in the work are created not only by diverse instruments and their sonorities, but also by extremes of dynamics, varying sound combinations and continual abrupt changes in all the imaginable parameters of composition.

In spite of all these multifaceted diversities, or perhaps because of them, the work creates an impression of coherence through its sequence of highly imaginative, unpredictable musical ideas.

Jerusalem Theater, July 12.
Ury Eppstein

THE COMBINATION of Mozart and Mahler, shared by two conductors on the same evening, was somewhat strange and did not really work. The first part of this IPO concert featured Pnchas Zukerman leading a small number of musicians in an unimpressive "Haffner" Serenade by Mozart. Luckily, we heard only half of the work's eight movements.

When Zukerman was conducting, he was not able to breathe life into the music. But when he also played the violin solo part, things changed completely. His refined playing was exquisite. It's a shame that he didn't lead the orchestra and play one of Mozart's violin concerti instead.

After the intermission of this somewhat long evening, Zubin Mehta stepped onto the podium to lead a very large IPO in Mahler's Sixth Symphony. Mehta has given us some fabulous Mahler readings (especially the first three symphonies) with the IPO. But on this occasion, despite a lot of wonderful moments, something was lacking. Mehta managed to capture the symphony's excitement but not an overall picture of the depth of the composition.

Mann Auditorium, Tel Aviv, July 15.
Michael Aizenstadt

JULIO IGLESIAS seemed as excited to be here as his fans were to have him. He greeted a semi-full amphitheater with enthusiasm and emotion. He praised Israelis for being strong and devoted and stated repeatedly how proud he was to be here. At one point, he blessed the audience and knelt behind his stool in prayer.

Encouraging audience participation, Iglesias said he wanted to hear from the crowd the same unity Israel has shown as a country. The fans were happy to oblige. Most of the numbers were from *Crazy*, his recent, predominantly English-language disc, "Caruso," which he said is his favorite, was a highlight. He also sang old Iglesias standards "Natalie" and "La Paloma."

Sultan's Pool, Jerusalem, July 11.
Jennifer Meyer

Fifties courtroom drama takes on new significance

TWELVE ANGRY MEN

By Reginald Rose. Hebrew, Ben Bar-Shavit. Direction, Samuel Vilozhny. Design, Adrian Vaux. Music, Efi Shoshani. Koff Brin, Ofer Zohar, Yehuda Ebron, Yissael Elderman, Uri Avrahami, Gil Frank, Shraga Harpaz, Obad Shachar, Avraham Ronal, Meena Alkalai, Eliezer Jung, Micha Selektor.

With this revival of a 1959 hit, Habimah scores a triumph. However, mounted today against the OJ

Simpson trial, *Twelve Angry Men* has a more immediate, more somber significance. With a judicious mix of veteran and younger actors, Vilozhny gives it the required topical twist.

The sheer theatricality, originality, stagecraft and intellectual thrust of this, his first production, places Vilozhny amongst the most promising of our younger directors. An accomplished comedian (he stars in Goldoni's *Servant of Two Masters*, which has been running for three years), he sur-

THEATER REVIEW

NAOMI DOUDAI

passes himself in his new role. The action centers on the deliberations of the jurors in a murder trial. All but one are agreed on the accused's guilt. The dissenter's resistance to the majority in the stubborn pursuit of justice is the stuff of psychological drama at its strongest and most dynamic.

It is realized by 12 cleverly cast

and highly accomplished actors who mix the oldtime histrionics of veterans with the laid-back self-containment of today's players. This in itself is a brilliantly achieved directorial feat.

Vilozhny's manipulation of the material is mastery. The struggle between personal paranoia, prejudices and bigotry on the one hand, and enlightened liberality on the other develops through waves of impassioned discussion. In his compellingly choreographed staging, it is more gripping than

most of our local TV talk shows. Adrian Vaux's set is impressive too. His clean, spare and subtly suggestive courtroom unexpectedly explodes into a breathtaking interland of jagged high-rise architecture and steamy New York skyscrapers in a backdrop that graphically conjures up the struggle played out in the foreground.

In short, with this rarely rewarding production, one that just must not be missed, Habimah's new management is starting out on the right foot.

NDT troupes in second Dutch treat

DANCE REVIEW

DORA SOWDEN

WITH five works in the second program of the Netherlands Dans Theater's *Dans Theater* at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center on July 8, Jiri Kylian again showed his mastery as choreographer and the company's command of his rich thematic material.

In each succeeding work, its creator seemed more extraordinary.

When, at the end of *Whereabouts Unknown*, more than 20 dancers lined up for a bow, it was a relief to see that they were just ordinary, lovely people and not the super-beings they had looked like while performing.

Utterly absorbed with the pulses of the miscellaneous music — by Arvo Part, Anton Webern, Steve Reich, Charles Ives and Michael de Roo — their forays into movement were as disturbing as they were exploratory, in unison as much as in solos, duets and trios, in their varied rhythmic textures.

Yet this, the longest work, was not the most wonderful. There was a sword dance called *No More Play* (with music by Webern).

Most fascinating of all was *Pe-*

tie Mori, where a dozen dancers made Mozart music come alive, yet remained modern in their enchanting ways.

Sarabande was frightening — roccoco costumes releasing six scantily clad figures, making moves and noises as menacing as they were marvelous, to music by Bach.

Fallen Angels followed, in vigorous motion to the live drumming of two musicians who somehow made Steve Reich's alarms a restoration of reason and yet rousing in its energy.

AT THE Jerusalem Theater on Saturday, the Netherlands Dans Theater's younger group (up to 21) began their program with Jiri Kylian's *Un Ballo* and gave such a stunning performance that they seemed no less professional than the older group.

It is no real discredit to the other three choreographers on the program that they did not match this level. Indeed, after Nacho Duato's work, the audi-

ence was so enthusiastic that the curtain had to be raised repeatedly.

Petrol-Head Lover by Gideon Obarzanek was a crazy concoction of clowning, puppetry, athletics and high jinks for children.

Solitaire had a man hanging head down for a terrifying length of time, with three couples below him absorbed in their own doings, but the connection never became clear.

The choreographer was Paul Lightfoot.

Leipzig to bring 'Moses und Aron'

GERMAN composer and conductor Udo Zimmermann, who is also the director of the Leipzig Opera, came here last month almost incognito.

In a highly unpublicized tour, he conducted the Tel Aviv Symphony Orchestra in a concert which also featured his 1972 composition *A Witness of Love, Which Conquers Death*.

During his recent visit, he finalized most of the details concerning a special tour of his Leipzig Opera next spring with one of

the most important operas of the 20th century, Arnold Schoenberg's *Moses und Aron*.

Most of the finances have already been finalized and if nothing goes awry, local audiences will be able to see *Moses und Aron* at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center next May. *Michael Aizenstadt*

TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	ON CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	4	4	VARIOUS ARTISTS	HITMAN 6
#2	6	6	ITA	THE GRAND LOVE
#3	NEW	1	EYFO HAYELED	JOURNEYS WITH MYSELF
#4	4	5	RIKI GAL	BEST SONGS
#5	3	15	RAMI KLEINSTEIN	APPLES AND DATES
#6	2	4	ETHNIX	COLLECTION
#7	7	8	FILM SOUND TRACK	1492
#8	9	18	ARIK EINSTEIN	FILLED WITH LOVE
#9	12	5	ACHINOAM NINI	NINI AND DOR
#10	8	24	TEA PACKS	YOUR LIFE IN A BIG PITA
#11	10	28	FILM SOUND TRACK	PULP FICTION
#12	5	5	MICHAEL JACKSON	HISTORY
#13	20	4	MASHINA	GBYE YOUTH; HELLO LOVE
#14	17	9	AVIV GEFEN	SHUMKUN
#15	13	9	ADIEMUS	TALES OF SANCTUARY

Tower Records' top-selling albums for the previous week. RE — re-entry



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BUSINESS & FINANCE

TUESDAY, JULY 18, 1995

Shohat: Coalition must unite to reject private MK bills

EVELYN GORDON

THE coalition must band together to quash some 70 private member's bills which would add billions of shekels to the budget, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said yesterday.

"Unlike in previous years, we have no room to maneuver," Shohat told a meeting of the coalition leadership, noting the high costs of the redeployment in the territories. "The only solution is a comprehensive decision by committee heads not to pass laws that the government opposes [i.e. anything that costs money]."

Shohat's proposal raised some hackles among the MKs. "We must ensure that social

issues also receive appropriate treatment through legislation," said Labor faction chairman Ra'anana Cohen. "We cannot have a budget that is all security... I absolutely reject a comprehensive decision."

Cohen said Shohat must give MKs some choice as to which laws to pass if he wanted to avoid a "dangerous dynamic [which] could end in complete chaos."

"It's a question of how a narrow coalition can pass a budget without everyone taking his slice," he said.

Avraham Poraz (Meretz) was even blunter, saying MKs might not support the budget if Shohat was not "open" to their ideas.

However, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin supported Shohat at a



Ra'anana Cohen: Social issues must also receive appropriate treatment. (Uzi Keren)

meeting of the Labor faction later in the day, during a blistering attack on a bill to raise the minimum wage from 45% to 50% of the average wage.

"This will come at the expense of security," Rabin said. "There's a limit. Everything is being thrown into welfare. I don't remember when budgets like this were put into welfare. You want to legislate laws like populists."

Shohat said this bill alone would raise public sector wages by NIS 600m. a year and would also cause unemployment to rise.

The faction decided to appoint a committee of five MKs to study the minimum wage issue and to invite experts in to discuss the costs of all the private member's bills now on the agenda.

MKs want new council to approve credit policy set by Bank of Israel

EVELYN GORDON

A NEW supervisory council would have to approve the Bank of Israel's credit policy, according to a bill submitted yesterday.

The bill, to its sponsors - Knesset Finance Committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor) and head of the opposition in the committee Dan Tichon (Likud) - is aimed at rectifying the anomalous situation whereby the central bank's policy is set solely by its governor.

The new council would consist of seven members - the central bank governor, the head of either the Bank of Israel's research department or the head of its monetary department, according to the governor's preference; two chair-

men of economic departments at institutes of higher education; one chairman of a business administration program at an institute of higher education; a representative of the Coordinating Bureau of Economic Organizations; and a representative of the Association of Banks in Israel.

The three professors would be chosen by the cabinet, which has historically advocated a looser credit policy than that set by the central bank.

Both the banks and the Coordinating Bureau, which is an umbrella group for employers' organizations, also have a clear

interest in a cheap money policy by the central bank.

However, the two MKs denied that the bill would damage the central bank's independence. The professors, they said, are meant to make decisions on a purely professional basis.

Furthermore, Gal said, the bill is only being submitted for preliminary reading - and it is very possible that appointment by the cabinet will be taken out in committee.

"We are creating a system of balances," Tichon said. "The situation today, whereby decisions are made by one man, is unreasonable. What if he makes a mistake?"

Economic activity falls 3.1%

RACHEL NEIMAN

ECONOMIC activity declined 3.1 percent last month compared with June 1994, according to a report released yesterday by Israel Chambers of Commerce economists.

However, second quarter activity was up 1% overall.

Declines were recorded mainly by producers of finished materials, the result of a steady drop in manufacturing.

Manufacture of household goods, such as furniture and home appliances, was also down. This was explained in part by high interest rates and public expectations that tariffs on electrical and electronic goods would be cut.

Purchases of consumer goods were up, influenced by Pessah at the beginning of the quarter and the change in seasons.

Motorola sells \$20m. in terminals to NYPD

RACHEL NEIMAN

THE New York Police Department (NYPD) has purchased \$20 million in computerized data terminals from Motorola Communications Israel.

The terminals will be installed in police cars and enable real-time data transfer on suspicious vehicles and people.

Motorola said the NYPD would be outfitted at a later date with Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite links to pinpoint the location of police vehicles throughout the city.

Other future accessories will include bar code sensors and printers.

"Motorola Communications Israel is today the official development and manufacturing center for Motorola International for this series of wireless data transfer products and technologies," said general manager Elisha Yanai.

Target markets for the products are police car fleets and other emergency services in the US and Europe.

The terminals will be manufactured in Motorola's Arad plant, which employs 700 workers.

\$127m. trade surplus posted with Japan

Jerusalem Post Staff

ISRAEL registered a \$127 million trade surplus with Japan in the first half of the year, after exports there rose nearly 36% while imports fell 6%.

Exports to Japan totaled \$590.4m. Chemicals exports doubled to \$64.6m., and prepared

food exports also doubled to \$10.7m.

Agricultural products were up 24% to \$22m., while high-tech exports were up 20% to \$69.5m.

Diamond exports were up

36%, totaling \$400m.

The main drop in imports came from the decrease in the import of Japanese cars, which were down 21% to \$226.5m. Industrial machine imports remained

steady.

Elhanan Harel, chairman of the Israel-Japan Chamber of Commerce, said the number of Israeli firms starting to market their wares in Japan bodes well for continued exports to the world's No. 2 economic power.

Japanese entrepreneurs plan to establish Omer industrial project

AMIR ROZENBLIT

JAPANESE entrepreneurs plan to establish an industrial complex - including high-tech industries, research and development institutes and a tourism project - at the Omer industrial zone, near Beersheba.

The complex will be spread over 600 dunams and have 200,000 square meters of industrial space.

Some \$250 million will be invested in the complex, not including the cost of the factories.

The tourism complex will be adjacent to the factories and be built at a cost of \$100m.

It will include a 300-room hotel designed and run in Japanese style.

The entire project will be built by the Rekoto Kasai company.

It has contracted work from the well-known Japanese architectural firm Shin Takamatsu-Liani, which has designed similar projects in the Far East and in Berlin.

Construction is expected to be completed within four years.

The project was given impetus by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's visit to Japan six months ago.

Ben-Eliezer decides to ease conditions for contractors

Jerusalem Post Staff

HOUSING and Construction Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer has decided on a series of steps aimed at making conditions for contractors interested in participating in new state-issued building tenders more flexible.

As part of these steps, the timetable for completion of construction will be lengthened, contractors will be released from some of the signed guarantees to meet the timetables at early stages of building, and required payments for neighborhood infrastructure will be spread out over a wider period.

"The building industry is on the upswing," said Ben-Eliezer. "Today there are more than 16 million square meters under various stages of construction, about 11.5 million for housing and the rest for other purposes. This is a record for the industry."

Ben-Eliezer added that there are about 90,000 housing units under construction, similar to that in 1991.

"I decided to make the condi-



Ben-Eliezer: There are about 90,000 housing units under construction. (David Rubinger)

tions more flexible to reduce the risk in the industry and to encourage contractors to build intensively," he said.

Hapoalim to buy additional 49% stake in subsidiary from Ampal-American Israel

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK Hapoalim will buy an additional 49 percent stake in its subsidiary, Bank Hapoalim (Cayman), from Ampal-American Israel Corp., a member of the Hapoalim group which raises capital in the US for financing industry.

In an announcement to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, the bank said the purchase is in the framework of its plans to increase its investments in subsidiary companies. After the purchase Hapoalim will hold all of Bank Hapoalim (Cayman) shares.

At a board of directors meeting yesterday, the bank also decided to increase the capital of Bank Hapoalim (Luxembourg) by \$9.9 million to \$25m.

Hapoalim also has plans to increase its investments in local subsidiaries. The directors decided to increase the bank's investment in Poalim Capital Markets by another NIS 14m. to help expand its activities.

The bank also plans to invest NIS 100,000 to buy all of Poalim American Express shares.

Senior citizens, minors who work independently to benefit from tax changes

JOSE ROSENFELD

TREASURY-SPONSORED tax changes will entitle senior citizens and minors who work independently to tax refunds, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat announced yesterday.

Amendments to the tax laws that were introduced last year impose a higher initial tax bracket of 30 percent for income that is not produced from work.

So, for example, someone who derives income from renting a business rather than from working in it starts paying 30% tax on taxable income.

If instead, the person works in the business, he will pay a 15% tax on the income in the lowest tax bracket.

The proposed change, backed by the Treasury and Meretz MK Avraham Poraz, will consider income from renting a business as produced from work for someone who has worked at least 10 years in the business.

In addition, individuals who are over 60 will be entitled for

consideration as producing their income from work, and thereby pay 15% tax on income derived from renting a business.

According to Treasury spokesman Aryeh Greenblatt, the changes are intended to make it easier for individuals to retire.

The Knesset Finance Committee has already approved the changes, and the plenum is expected to enact the changes this week.

Another change will entitle minors who work as independents to benefit from the same full income tax exemption they already enjoy. Up to NIS 24,000 in annual income will be tax-exempt.

The Knesset Finance Committee will vote on the proposal this week.

Should the Knesset approve the changes, they will become effective retroactive to the beginning of last year, entitling to a refund those who have paid more taxes than required.

Shareholder in Reichart Industries sues company officials

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

A SHAREHOLDER in Reichart Industries, a company in temporary liquidation, has filed a lawsuit against the Reichart family and the company's directors and accountants.

According to the suit, filed earlier this week at the Tel Aviv District Court, the company blatantly violated its obligation to report information concerning company activity.

Lawyers Shai Adler, Ran Sha-

lon and Uri Rosenberg filed the suit in the name of Moshe Shemesh, one of Reichart's investors.

The lawyers have asked the court to recognize the suit as a class-action suit.

Reichart, the manufacturer of cement and plastic products, collapsed about two months ago after the company revealed its fi-

nancial reports were distorted and it is not able to pay its financial obligations.

Reichart's managers even admitted that the company's method of reporting was misleading.

In the suit, Shemesh claims he, along with all other Reichart investors, lost all his investment in the company because of management's publication of misleading

and forged information.

Shemesh accusations are based on the company's liquidation application, which was submitted to the Tel Aviv District Court at the start of July.

In the request, Ezra Reichart, the company's major shareholder, said he is able to collect only NIS 9 million, even though the customer clause in the financial statements states the company is capable of collecting NIS 55m.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

The Industry and Trade Ministry's Investment Center approved 16 projects this week, totaling \$31.7 million. The center approved the establishment of a \$13.5m. plant in Zippori to produce high current electric cables.

Israel Cable & Wire, controlled by the Ofer brothers, has set up a partnership with Germany's F&G, using the latter's know-how to produce ultra high voltage cables. The plant will bid for the Israel Electric Corporation's tender of \$500m. for the supply of high voltage cables in the coming five years.

The plant has a license from the German partners to market the cables to countries in the Middle East, Turkey, South Africa and the US. The center also approved a \$9.3m. expansion of the Oman textile plant in Ofakim. *Jose Rosenfeld*

Business Development Center to put data base on Internet: The Industry and Trade Ministry's Business Development Center will put its industrial cooperation data base on Internet, center director Noah Shani announced yesterday.

The data base is made up of company profiles that include the type of industrial cooperation each firm is seeking. Until now the information was sent to those that requested it by computer diskette. The move to Internet is expected to give those businesses exposure to millions of potential partners. Shani said. *Jose Rosenfeld*

Koor Communications and Security has won a \$850,000 contract to supply the Prisons' Service with a low-voltage security system at the Nafnia Prison. It integrates closed circuit TV, entrance and presence inspection systems, control rooms and a low-voltage security perimeter. *Rachel Neiman*

Proposal to limit salaries of senior bank, public firm officials: Economics Minister Shimon Shetret yesterday forwarded to the cabinet a legislative proposal to limit the wages of senior bank and public company officials to 12 times the salary of the lowest ranked worker in the firm.

Shetret said investors are particularly affected by the exaggerated salaries senior management draws in public corporations which do not pay out dividends. The legislation requires that the wages of senior officials will have to be approved by a committee, the finance minister, the Knesset Finance Committee or the Securities Authority to ensure a direct relation between the wages and the firms' performance. *Jose Rosenfeld*

Olive growers to receive NIS 5 million in compensation: The Agriculture Ministry will compensate the olive growers a total of NIS 5 million for the loss in crops from bad weather last year. The compensation will be given at the ministry today in the presence of Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsor and the association's representatives. *Galit Lipkis Beck*

Galilee Herbal Remedies (GHR) Migraleaf capsules will be marketed in the US by Nutriceuticals of Utah, following the US Food and Drug Administration decision recently to approve Migraleaf as a health food supplement, the company has announced.

GHR managing director Roy Bouskila said Migraleaf is derived from high-potency Feverfew leaves, grown by Kibbutz Kfar Hanassi. According to Bouskila, clinical trials in England and the US showed that Migraleaf helps sufferers of migraine headaches, arthritis and premenstrual syndrome. Migraleaf is already available here. *Galit Lipkis Beck*

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (17.7.95)			
Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.875	4.875	4.875
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.875	4.875	4.875
German mark (DM 200,000)	3.000	3.000	3.375
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	1.500	1.825	2.125
Yen (10 million yen)			

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (17.7.95)			
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES	
Currency basket	Buy	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	2.8214	2.8214	2.8214
German mark	2.8214	2.8214	2.8214
Pound sterling	2.8214	2.8214	2.8214
French franc	0.0814	0.0814	0.0814
Japanese yen (100)	3.2916	3.2916	3.2916
Dutch florin	1.8678	1.8678	1.8678
Swiss franc	2.2001	2.2001	2.2001
Swedish krona	0.4084	0.4084	0.4084
Norwegian krone	0.4709	0.4709	0.4709
Finland mark	0.5389	0.5389	0.5389
Finland mark	0.5844	0.5844	0.5844
Canadian dollar	2.1547	2.1547	2.1547
Australian dollar	2.1372	2.1372	2.1372
S. African rand	0.8307	0.8307	0.8307
Belgian franc (10)	1.0170	1.0170	1.0170
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8741	2.8741	2.8741
Italian lire (1000)	1.5101	1.5101	1.5101
Jordanian dinar	—	—	—
Egyptian pound	—	—	—
ECU	3.8783	3.8783	3.8783
Irish punt	4.7840	4.7840	4.7840
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4437	2.4437	2.4437

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

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Money woes beset IOC

HEATHER CHAIT

WITH 366 days before the Atlanta Olympics, Israeli hopes are as high as the coffers are low.

At the official opening of the 'Olympic Year' yesterday in Tel Aviv, Israeli Olympic Committee President Yoram Oberkovich pointed out that Israel will enjoy its new status as a member of the 'Medalist Club,' referring to the silver and bronze medals won by judokas Yael Arad and Oren Smadja respectively at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

Hopes for the third Israeli medal next year are pinned on shooters Boris Pollak and Alex Tripolski, judokas Arad and Smadja and windsurfer Amit Inbar. Arad and Smadja are among 13 representatives of the 30 Israeli participants from the Barcelona games.

Dr. Itzik Ben-Melech, head of the Elite Sports Department responsible for Olympic training, estimates that 25 sportspeople will clear the Olympic criteria, adding that "our aim is to have five or six in the finals."

While the Olympic heads are also reveling in the recent achievements of the delegation to the Youth Olympics held last week in Bath (sixth place out of 46 nations), the financial plight of the Olympic body has thrown the preparations into disarray and is threatening to jeopardize the entire event.

Zvi Varshaviak, Vice President of the IOC, did not conceal his feelings toward the Ben Dror Commission which cut 30 percent of the Olympic budget last December. Also receiving an up-braiding was Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Sport Micha Goldman who, after promising NIS 4 million to the



TAKING AIM - Shooter Boris Pollak eyes '96 gold.

Israel Sports Federation, has so far channeled only one-tenth the amount.

These financial straits, together with the current NIS 4m deficit, have already taken their toll on several Olympic categories, including athletics whose training program will be halted after the World Championships next month in Sweden if no financial aid is forthcoming.

Going some of the way towards

filling the gap is the IOC's plan of inviting sponsors to support the Olympic preparations as described by the new Director General of the IOC, Efraim Zinger.

"The idea of sponsorship will not only bring the Olympic Games into every household, but will also give the few selected companies maximum exposure," explained Zinger, adding that McDonalds has already signed as a sponsor.

SPORTS

Padres shun replacement player

Triple A outfielder batting .400 passed over

SAN DIEGO (AP) - Don't expect to see any former replacement players being called up to the San Diego Padres anytime soon.

In what was described as a wide-ranging team meeting on Friday, general manager Randy Smith told the Padres that Class AAA outfielder Ira Smith was among the handful of players being considered to fill the roster spot of injured outfielder-leadoff hitter Bip Roberts.

Then Randy Smith asked the players what they thought about that.

"We discussed it and said if it's going to create a problem in the clubhouse, then it shouldn't happen," pitcher Andy Ashby said on Sunday. "And we all voted that, well, there is bad karma with it, so we'll shut it down."

Ashby said the vote was "more or less" unanimous.

The Padres decided to call up Archi Cianfrocco, an infielder-outfielder who refused to cross the symbolic picket line during spring training and remained in the minor league camp.

Bringing up the issue was "just a matter of showing respect, that hey, this is a guy that's being considered, and ask the guys what your feelings were," manager Bruce Bochy said.

"I don't think what you want to do there is bring somebody up and then have a lot of animosity toward somebody," Bochy added. "It wouldn't be fair to that person and it wouldn't be fair to the club."

Players and management stressed that management had the final say.

"We run this team," Randy Smith said. "Make no bones about it. We make the baseball decisions, with input from a lot of

different people - scouts, managers, whatever. But those guys (players) don't run the club."

Smith refused to say if he used the players' input in making his decision.

"We're in this thing together, that's all I'll say," he said. "This is a group and team effort. There's a lot of people out there; I respect their opinion."

Catcher Brad Ausmus said harmony in the clubhouse is often just as important as play on the field.

"That's a credit to them that they brought the issue to us and allowed us to be heard," Ausmus said. "Again, the decision was up to them. They still could have done whatever they wanted, but they wanted to hear what we had to say."

The players made it clear they will not waver from their union stance.

"It's just a really nasty situation," said pitcher Andy Benes, the team's player representative. "I think everybody that decided to play knew what the ramifications were going to be. But everybody has to make their own decisions."

Ira Smith crossed over late in spring training, played in about 10 games and made the final 28-man roster before the strike came to an end, and all replacement players were released. He is currently hitting .400 for the Las Vegas Stars.

"It's not a personal issue at all," Ausmus said. "We're not telling him we don't like him, we're telling him we don't agree with what he did."

Cianfrocco, the Padres' opening day third baseman in 1994, said he "did what I believed in" when he refused to become a replacement player.

Maradona: FIFA rooted for Brazil in '94

Lalas agrees to join US soccer league

ROME (Reuters) - Diego Maradona has told an Italian newspaper that his positive dope test at the 1994 World Cup was the result of a "misunderstanding" or "a trap" and added that FIFA had wanted Brazil to win the competition all along.

"I swear to you, as I have sworn on the heads of my daughters, that I wasn't doped," the Argentine told daily *La Stampa* in an interview published yesterday, the first anniversary of Brazil's victory over Italy in the final in the Rose Bowl, Pasadena.

"It must have been a misunderstanding. Or if not a genuine misunderstanding, a trap,"

added Maradona, thrown out of the tournament during the opening round after testing positive for a cocktail of banned stimulants.

Maradona, who is set to make a comeback with Argentine club Boca Juniors when his 15-month suspension expires in September, said that both the American authorities and FIFA had reasons to frame him.

"It's true that my sympathies for (Cuban leader Fidel) Castro irritated the Americans. And then FIFA as a whole was supporting Brazil," he added.

Meanwhile, defender Alexi Lalas, the flamboyant defender with the red hair and goatee,

agreed to play for Major League Soccer for the 1996 season.

Lalas, the first American-born player to appear in the Italian League, will remain with Padova for the 1995-96 season, which starts August 27 and ends May 12. He then will join an MLS team to be determined.

He also plays rock music, and the Italian press has affectionately dubbed him "Buffalo Bill" for his looks.

MLS is a 10-team league that intends to start play next March 31. Lalas, who played for Rutgers, said he hopes to be with an East Coast team.

Racing legend Fangio at 84

Winner of 24 Grand Prix to be buried in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (AP) - Juan Manuel Fangio, a five-time world auto racing champion, died yesterday at the age of 84, his family said.

Fangio was admitted to a hospital Friday with pneumonia and kidney problems, his doctors said.

Fangio recognized that the sport has few 80-year-old veterans. "I never took an unnecessary risk. I always knew my limits," he said Friday.

Still, he won 24 Grand Prix races out of 51 contested. He held 28 pole positions. His 24 victories are the seventh highest total of all-time, behind Alain Prost (51), Ayrton Senna (41), Nigel Mansell (31), Jackie Stewart (27), Jim Clark and Niki Lauda (both 25).

Fangio raced in the days when drivers wore leather helmets and goggles. Seat belts were unknown as space-age metals and safety harnesses. Often as not, Fangio raced in shirt-sleeves, sitting bolt upright on straightaways and leaning slightly into curves.

His reflexes and anticipation were legendary.

"He wasn't a technician. He was just a great artist of driving. But above all that, he was a gentleman and to me a wonderful man, a father figure," said Stirling Moss of Britain, a former Maserati and Mercedes teammate of Fangio.

"I was a teammate when I was 25. He was the best driver in the world and he would let me follow," Moss recalled Monday. "We were known as 'the train' because I was running so close to him - a car's length - right through a three-hour race."

"He would allow me to follow him and take in as much as I could of his technique and so on. That meant an awful lot."

Fangio has said his technique came from racing Fords and Chevys on unpaved roads in Argentina and South America before advancing to Alfa Romeo, Maseratis and Mercedes-Benz on the European circuit.

"We had the opportunity to learn to feel the car with the entire body," he recalled.

For all his natural cautiousness, danger was a constant companion.

In 1948, his co-driver in a race from Buenos Aires to Caracas, Venezuela, Daniel Urrutia, died after the car flipped over. In 1952, he narrowly escaped death when he crashed at the Monza Grand Prix, suffering a concussion and broken neck when he was thrown from his Maserati.

Fangio, the son of Italian immigrants, dropped out of school at age 11 to work as a mechanic's assistant. He was world champion in 1951 and the four years between 1954-57.

He retired a year later at age 47, in part because he thought race car teams were thinking too little of drivers' safety.

"My best friends died in stupid accidents and I didn't want to go on," he said.

After retiring as a driver, Fangio worked around the racing circuit and cars, advising Argentine racers and his former sponsors. He was honorary president of Mercedes-Benz in Argentina.

Fangio, who never married, is survived by a brother and a nephew.

The wake will be held at the Argentine Automobile Club's central building in Buenos Aires. Fangio's funeral is scheduled for today, in his home city of Balcarce, 220 miles South of Buenos Aires.



HIGH TECH - Juan Manuel Fangio, shown in a 1958 photo, tests a Maserati-Formula 1 car on the Monza racetrack near Milan. (AP)

Former NZ cricket captain inks pact with Transvaal

DUNEDIN, NZ (AP) - Former New Zealand cricket captain Ken Rutherford said Sunday he has signed a two-year deal with South African provincial side Transvaal.

"The cricket issue was naturally part of it but the wider picture was my lifestyle," Rutherford, who was removed as captain last month by selectors, said of the decision. "I needed a new challenge, a new direction."

Rutherford, 29, said Transvaal approached him in March and made a formal offer about seven weeks ago. He decided to delay making a decision and see what else developed.

"As it happened there was interest from an Australian state side and another South African province as well, but I was already quite keen on Transvaal."

THE LOCAL SCENE

Levinson first in Bermuda

Amir Levinson took his third world youth windsurfing championships yesterday by winning the Olympic mistral category in Bermuda. The 18-year-old from Hapoel Tel Aviv, who is a member of next year's Olympic team, finished first in five of nine competitions. *Heather Chait*

National cadet team in hoops win

The National cadet basketball team beat Romania 85-71 in Istanbul yesterday to notch its third win in the youth tournament. The squad, which has beaten Germany and Croatia and lost to Greece and Turkey, now travels to Estonia to compete in the semifinals. *Itim*

Renassia takes women's links crown

Tamar Renassia won the women's national golf championship for the fourth straight time at the Caesarea Golf Club over the weekend. *Post Sports Staff*

The Sports Pages are edited by Joseph Hoffman

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Ben-Porat: If report on Tze'elim needed, I'll do it

STATE Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat said yesterday she should not be required by the State Control Committee to do a special report on the Tze'elim-2 training accident, but added she will look into the matter in the course of researching her regular annual report.

If she then determines that the matter warrants it, she will prepare a special report as well, Ben-Porat told the committee's military affairs subcommittee.

The subcommittee is debating the question of whether to request a special report on the 1992 accident, in which five soldiers were killed, following an investigative report by Yediot Aharonot.

The report charged that both former chief of general staff Ehud Barak and OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine gave testimony to the Military Police that directly contradicted their previous testimony to the Eitan Committee, which conducted the first investigation of the accident.

The full committee will meet next week to make a final decision on the matter.

Yesterday's meeting was addressed by Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair, who objected strenuously to any new investigation. Ben-Yair said the affair had already been investigated exhaustively, and that he and State Attorney Dorit Beinisch were full

partners in Judge Advocate-General Ilan Schiff's decisions. If anyone has complaints about these decisions, he said, the proper course is to petition the High Court of Justice against them.

"There is no point in investigating what has already been investigated," he said, as quoted by MK Raanan Cohen (Labor).

However, Ben-Yair also told the committee that, while he and Beinisch discussed all the conclusions with Schiff, there were disagreements among them on some of the subjects. He declined to specify which, saying only that all three had agreed to prefer the Eitan Committee testimony to

that given in the later Military Police investigation.

Ben-Yair also said he and Beinisch had not seen the raw material from either the Eitan Committee or the Military Police investigation; he was working only with the rough draft of Schiff's decision.

These two facts, said Shaul Yahalom (NRP), led him to question Ben-Yair's conclusion that the affair had been significantly investigated.

Rehavim Ze'evi (Moledet) was the only opposition MK who professed himself satisfied with Ben-Yair's conclusion. All the coalition MKs present did so,

however.

Ben-Porat agreed with Ben-Yair that the committee should not force her to prepare a special report. However, she said, there are questions that do require examination, such as whether the proper lessons were learned from the affair, and whether there are problems with the elite Sayeret Matkal unit, which lost two soldiers to dehydration during an exercise following the Tze'elim-2 disaster.

If her examination seems to mandate a special report, she added, she will do one.

"We are talking about a serious incident," she said, according to Cohen. "The question must be asked as to whether there are les-

sons that must be learned. And we need to be very attentive to those who lost their dear ones. If we see that there is something to investigate, we will investigate."

Michael Yudelevsky adds: Ben-Porat, who is expected to be confirmed as interior minister today, called Press Council president Haim Tzadok and made it clear that he has no intention of initiating any legislation restricting the freedom of the press.

The phone call came following Barak's sharp criticism of the press and his conduct during Nissim Mishal's interview show, *Conference Call*, where the Yediot report on Barak's conduct at the Tze'elim-2 accident was discussed last week.

Yeshiva head defends rabbis' ruling on disobedience in army

EVELYN GORDON

A RULING by 15 rabbis calling on soldiers to disobey orders to vacate army bases in the territories is not anti-democratic, but is rather a classic democratic call for conscientious objection, Rabbi Nahum Rabinovich, head of the Ma'aleh Adumim Yeshiva, told the Knesset Law Committee yesterday.

"I hope we all agree that the democracy we are talking about is that of Britain or the US," he said, noting that these democracies are largely based on the work of British philosopher John Locke.

He then quoted Locke's statement to the effect that if a government makes war on its own citizens or delivers citizens in its territory to the dominion of another, this completely destroys the basis of the government's authority, and it should no longer be obeyed in anything.

Locke's work, he added, is largely based on the Bible — and it is a pity, he said, that when so many other countries look to the Bible to find the limits of government in a democracy, Israelis "speak about a democratic regime as if its authority were unlimited."

Rabinovich stressed that the rabbis' ruling was ultimately based on the individual's acceptance, and not on religious coercion.

"The ruling has moral authority," he said. "The rabbis see themselves ... as responsible for raising their voices ... when Jewish morality, which is essentially universal morality, demands it. But the force of the ruling is, of course, built on the acceptance of individuals."

Rabinovich acknowledged that those who would suffer by obeying the ruling were the soldiers who would be thrown in prison, and said

this "bothers me very, very much." "But ... it is a fundamental principle of ours that every individual is responsible for his own actions," he said. "There are no rabbis who would say, 'accept my opinion.' Each person must consider whether [the rabbis'] words are really built on Jewish law ... In the end, the responsibility falls on the individual."

"This is a great deal to ask of a young man," he added — but throughout history, Jews have always been willing to go to prison for what they believed in, he said.

Rabbi Yehuda Amital of Yeshivat Har Etzion in Alon Shvut disputed Rabinovich's statements sharply.

"Religious and moral orders do take precedence over any military order — unequivocally," he said, giving examples ranging from violating Shabbat to shooting a defenseless Arab. "But this is a political stand, and I object to giving it halachic backing," he said.

All MKs present agreed that a soldier told to violate a clearly religious commandment — such as an order to work on Shabbat or to eat non-kosher meat — would be justified in disobeying such an order. These would be "patently illegal," in the words of Eli Goldschmidt (Labor), and the right to refuse them is basic to a democratic society, said committee chairman Dedi Zuckerman (Meretz).

Hebrew University Prof. Avi Ravitzky stressed that the ruling was not an issue of either religion and the state or religious-secular relations, since the chief rabbis, the haredim, and even many members of the national religious camp had denounced it.



The Bar-Ilan interchange on the Geha Highway, seen here, is to be opened today in a ceremony attended by Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer. The new exchange enables stoplight-free traffic flow from Morasha junction to Ashdod.

Shamgar: Continue battle for constitution

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset must continue its fight to create a genuine constitution, because the work is far from done, Supreme Court President Meir Shamgar told a farewell meeting of the Knesset Law Committee yesterday.

Shamgar, who is retiring next month, said constitutional legislation is the only way to protect the rights of the individual.

"The individual is at the center of life, and must be cared for," he said. "Whoever thinks the task has been completed ... is certainly mistaken, and will wind up moving backwards."

However, he said, this should not be done using steamroller tactics. "Moderation ... and tolerance always create the desired results," he said.

Regarding the separation of powers, Shamgar said he believes the court should not intervene in the

Knesset's internal affairs, but must intervene when there is a "constitutional injury." Each branch of government must be independent, he said, but a proper balance can only be achieved if "none of the branches has exclusive authority which will subvert the others."

Finally, Shamgar objected strenuously to legislating minimum sentences for crimes. "Basic rights also find expression in the judicial process ... in the fact that the judge has unlimited discretion," he said. When a judge "decides without compulsion ... according to his conscience ... [after] listening to all sides, that is the [proper] balance," he said.

MKs from across the political spectrum united in praising Shamgar for making the Supreme Court

an institution widely respected by the entire population and for helping to open its gates to all. Several cited the fact that, under Shamgar's tenure, the definition of who has standing before the court was broadened, and Sylvan Shalom (Likud) noted the fact that the court is even open to Arab residents of the territories. Salim Tarif (Labor) affirmed that the country's minorities have faith in the court.

"[The haredim] are not part of the cult of believers in the High Court," but when we heard that Justice Shamgar would be on a panel, even we non-believers were reassured," said Avraham Ravitz (UT). Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair described Shamgar as embodying "sensitivity, liberalism, innovativeness ... and [especially] humanity," and praised him for his defense of freedom of expression as a basic right.

Israel, Spain agree on citrus exports

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

ISRAEL and Spain have reached an agreement regarding citrus exports to the European Union after many months of negotiations, the Agriculture Ministry announced yesterday.

According to the agreement, Israel will export at least 200,000 tons of citrus at an entrance price that will be determined by the EU and Israel at the start of each export season. Last year, Israeli exports to Europe reached 180,000 tons. The ministry said the entrance price is expected to protect European farmers from market flooding.

The agreement with Spain is expected to pave the way toward the signing of the new trade agreement with the EU, but there are still two issues that have to be resolved. The ministry said France's and Austria's recent decision to demand an increase in duty-free frozen meat and apple concentrate imports to Israel, above the quota initially reached as part of the negotiations, are causing problems.

Ministry Deputy Director-General Zvi Alon said France is demanding to increase its meat quota to 6,000 tons from 5,000 tons, while Austria is demanding to increase apple concentrate quotas to 750 tons from 500 tons.

Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsuri said Israel will object to the new demands.

"The European Union is conducting unfair negotiations," Tsuri said. "The Agriculture Ministry cannot agree to import 750 tons of concentrate, since this is equivalent to 7,500 tons of apples and will significantly hinder Galilee and Golan fruit growers."

AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Temp	Wind	Clouds
Amsterdam	13	21	70
Berlin	15	18	70
Buenos Aires	15	18	70
Chicago	22	22	70
Cairo	22	22	70
Copenhagen	14	14	70
Frankfurt	18	18	70
Geneva	18	18	70
Helsinki	18	18	70
Hong Kong	28	28	70
London	14	14	70
Los Angeles	18	18	70
Madrid	18	18	70
Moscow	15	15	70
New York	22	22	70
Peking	18	18	70
Rome	18	18	70
Stockholm	18	18	70
Tokyo	22	22	70
Toronto	18	18	70
Zurich	18	18	70
Jerusalem	22	22	70

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapais daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the queen of spades, 10 of hearts, jack of diamonds, and king of clubs.

Pollard's family against move for citizenship

MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK

A BID to gain Israeli citizenship for Jonathan Pollard — the latest twist in the effort to free him from a life sentence in a federal prison — is being denounced by Pollard's family in the US.

Esther Zeitz, who married the jailed naval analyst in prison, believes Pollard's chances for a pardon by President Bill Clinton would improve if Israel granted him citizenship.

But Pollard's sister, father, and several long-time supporters vehemently disagree.

"The issue now is not getting him [Israeli] citizenship; the issue is getting him out of prison," Carol Pollard told *The Jerusalem Post* on Sunday.

"Israeli citizenship will not be helpful to Jonathan at this time," said Seymour Reich, president of the American Zionist Movement and former chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. "It will hurt him."

Pollard became eligible for parole in the fall. Clinton has turned down previous pleas for clemency, including one from Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Pollard's father and sister both said they hope the case will not become a "political football." They have been arguing that Pollard should be released on humanitarian grounds, saying the punishment is excessive. Other espionage cases — even involving spying for nations hostile to America — have carried much less severe punishments.

Divers find bodies of non-Israelis

DAVID RUDGE

DIVERS have discovered the bodies of three seamen in the wreckage of the bridge of the sunken freighter *Mineral Dampier* in the East China Sea.

A statement issued by the Transport Ministry said it appears that two of them are Filipinos and the other a Belgian. Nine Israelis were among the 27-member crew of the vessel when it went down last month after being struck by a South Korean ship.

The bodies of two of the Israeli crew members — wireless operator Uri Berger, 59, of Haifa and leading seaman Moshe Kol, 52, of Kiryat Motzkin — were recovered from the sea shortly after the disaster.

Rabbi Shapira cancels meet with group of Meretz youth

FORMER chief rabbi Avraham Shapira refused to meet yesterday with a group of Meretz youth who wanted to discuss his halachic ruling that soldiers must obey orders to evacuate the territories.

Shapira said he canceled the scheduled meeting because a large number of journalists had arrived at his Jerusalem home.

Meretz youth director Ziv Barnea said four young Meretz activists who are about to be drafted into the IDF came to Shapira's home in the Givat Shaul neighborhood.

He said one of Shapira's aides told them the meeting had been canceled because journalists had arrived, which showed they in-

tended to "make a media event out of the meeting" and not a real rapprochement.

Barnea said he was disappointed over the cancellation and was amazed that Shapira, who had himself created a media circus with his ruling, had then refused to meet with the youth because of the presence of a few journalists.

"I do not know if I want a rapprochement after this," he said.

Meanwhile, the American Board of Rabbis yesterday supported Shapira's ruling.

"The Israeli army has been transformed into the ultra-radical left-wing Rabin/Peres militia," said board president Rabbi Mordechai Friedman. (Itm)

District court allows non-Hebrew grave inscriptions

THE Tel Aviv District Court recently ordered the Rishon LeZion Burial Society to allow two families to inscribe non-Hebrew characters and secular dates on their relatives' tombstones.

One grave belongs to a woman who immigrated from the United States in 1965 at age 50 and who never learned Hebrew. said the families' lawyer, Dan Yakir of the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI).

Her children are not familiar with the Hebrew calendar, Yakir

noted in the petition. The other instance involves the grave of a woman who immigrated in 1977 from the former Soviet Union and also never learned Hebrew.

In both instances, Yakir said, the families asked to honor their loved ones by inscribing their tombstones with their native languages: English and Russian. They also want to inscribe dates that would be readily recognized by them.

Yakir argued that the burial

society's refusal was illegal and harmed the honor of the dead and their families right to record the memory of their loved ones as they wished.

He noted that most cemeteries in the country do allow tombstones to be inscribed with foreign characters.

The judge rejected the burial society's claim that the inscription would harm the public and noted that it is widely accepted among the country's burial societies, including in Tel Aviv. (Itm)

Manpower Branch without commander, as head goes to Washington

THE IDF Manpower Branch was left without a commander last night, with the departure of Maj.-Gen. Yoram Yair for Washington, where he will serve as defense attaché for the US and Canada for the next three years. He replaces Air Force Maj.-Gen. Giora Rom, who is to retire.

Officially, the IDF says Yair is to be in Washington for an orientation period, then return here pending the appointment of his successor.

But in effect, as of yesterday, Manpower Branch had no full-time commanding officer.

One of the leading candidates to replace Yair is Air Force Brig.-Gen. S. But in May, S. was severely reprimanded after a military court found him guilty of usurping his authority and ordering an air force construction unit to pave a road leading from his home in a moshav near Rehovot to the main road. Alon Pinkas

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